

Bible background

Luke 10:30-37.

Aim of lesson

To teach practical kindness to others.

Preparation required

Colour and cut one activity sheet. You may like to reinforce the people with a strip of cardboard which can be grasped by a child so that the character is held up like a lollipop. You will need colouring materials, scissors, glue and sheets of coloured paper during the lesson.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Introduce the story Jesus told of a young man walking along the road. Have one of the children carry the paper man slowly across the classroom. Tell them about the robbers and give one or two others the paper robbers so that they can act out what happened with the paper characters. The paper man can be left in the middle of the floor without his coat.
2. Continue the story allowing the children to walk the characters across the scene. Explain that the first two men were people who worked in the Temple of God and should have known the right thing to do. If you use the word 'neighbour' make sure the children understand that it doesn't just mean the people living next door. Stick the inn on a suitable door or chair. If you prefer, the children could be still while you tell the story; you could simply show the characters in turn. They could then act it out with the paper figures as a review.
3. Ask the children which man in the story had been a good friend. Why? What had he done? Ask who had not been a good friend. What had they done? Why did they not help? Ask the children why they think Jesus told this story; what lesson did he want us to learn?
4. You may like to teach the song 'Can you be a good friend' from Lesson 90 or teach the longer action song 'Once a man came down the road' stopping to ask what happened next after each verse.
5. The children can colour and cut out their own activity sheet. The figures can be stuck on to sheets of sugar paper (or any cheap coloured paper) to form the whole scene.

Alternative activities

1. Role play: Act out the story. Provide some simple props e.g. money bags and coins, bandages, 'robes' for the Priest and Levite, a cloak for the robbers to steal, a blanket and pillow for the bed at the inn.
2. If you have a sand tray, make a scene with a road, rocks for the robbers to hide behind, small boxes or piles of damp sand for buildings. Use play figures or clay models to act out the story.
3. Before the lesson, mount pictures of the different characters on small cards. Get the children to sort them into kind/unkind characters.
4. Make two sets of the cards and play pairs. Help the children to identify the characters and retell their role in the story. Join in to help the children remember where cards are and to 'find' a few pairs if they are struggling.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children how they can be kind and helpful like the stranger. Encourage discussion of specific examples, e.g. if someone has an accident or has to stay in with a leg in plaster.

Prayer

Ask the children what they think the man who was robbed would have prayed that night.

Verse

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Luke 10:27.

Song

Once a man came down the road (Tune: London Bridge is falling down)



- v.1 Once a man came down the road, (*walk two fingers*)
down the road,
down the road,
Once a man came down the road
What then happened?
- v.2 Robbers came and beat him up (*strike fist into palm*)
- v.3 Two men passed who did not help (*walk two fingers each hand*)
- v.4 Then a stranger cared for him (*with one hand wind 'bandage' around the other*)
- v.5 He took him to an inn (*lead the 'donkey'*)
- v.6 Then he paid to care for him (*place 'coins' in left hand*)
That's what happened
- v.7 Jesus says be kind like him (*wag finger*)
Kind and helpful

Music: Traditional.

The song is designed so that two groups can sing verses to each other if you wish.