

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God sends
us helpers.

BIBLE

The Parable of the Good Samaritan:
Luke 10:25–37; Psalm 27:1–5

ABOUT THIS WEEK

There are lots of movies about brave and daring rescues, but what might it look like to become an everyday hero? This week, we'll hear Jesus tell a story about a Samaritan who helped a wounded man when no one else did. God invites us to help people who are in need, and when we need help ourselves,

God sends us helpers.

LARGE GROUP TIME

Hey there, welcome back to Week 3 of *Big Picture*! Have you ever heard the phrase “Lights, camera, action”? That’s what they say when they start filming a cool movie scene, just like the exciting parts of action movies with heroes who help and protect others.

Today’s Bible story is about a hero who’s different from what you might expect. This hero did amazing things, even though not everyone thought they would. So, get ready for the story—it’s full of surprises and action. *Roll film!*

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Rescue Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, create two teams for this variation of a three-legged relay race and set up a course with traffic cones or tape on the floor. Have one person from each team be the first rescuer and stand at the starting line. The rest of the team gathers at the other end of your designated course to be rescued. The rescuers run to the group and “save” one person, but instead of binding their legs together, they both hold onto a hula hoop or other ring-shaped item representing a life preserver. Together, they run back to the starting line. Then, the person who was rescued becomes the next rescuer and runs back to the rest of the team to save another person. The first team to get every member back to the starting line wins.*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *To make this more interesting for preteens, add commands and actions to the game. Like “Whirlpool!” means the kids have to spin together with the hoop three times before proceeding. Or “wave!” means the kids have to jump. Or “current!” means the kids have to walk backward until you whistle.*

- Today’s Bible story will introduce us to an unlikely hero. Some action movies are about daring rescues, with brave heroes who selflessly run into danger to save other people. And heroes can’t always do this by themselves. Other people will help and become everyday heroes. You can be an everyday hero today!

ACTIVITY | Bandage Wrap

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, divide the group into teams of four to eight kids. Have one person from each volunteer be the wounded person. The rest of the team will take rolls of toilet paper (or crepe streamers) and try to wrap the wounded person entirely while making sure to leave their eyes and nose clear so they can see and breathe. The first team to either finish wrapping the wounded person or run out of toilet paper wins!
- ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Have kids only wrap the wounded person's legs or just their arms.
- When someone is hurt, they need help immediately before their injuries get worse. This was a fun game, but remember that in real life, you might need to call a grownup to help someone who's hurt.
- In today's Bible story, a man gets badly injured, and an unexpected helper comes to the rescue!

QUESTION | Have you ever helped or needed help?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids share times when they needed help.
- **Have you ever needed to be rescued or helped out of a tough situation? What happened?**
- **Have you ever been in a situation where you helped someone? What happened?**
- Sometimes we are in a situation where we can help someone else, and sometimes we need help from someone else. In today's story, there is a person who needs help. Let's see if anyone is willing to help.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Luke 10:25–37 (The Parable Of The Good Samaritan)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up your space like a movie set, with a director's chair, megaphone, and [clapper board](#) (or [make your own](#)). You will be a movie director every week and invite kids up to pantomime as you tell the story. Don't worry about it being sloppy or awkward—the whole point is for the director to tell the kids what to do during the storytelling. Feel free to ad-lib and make it funny. Use the clapper board to signal the "acting" sequence. This week, you will need two kids to be passersby, one kid to be the Samaritan, and one kid to be the injured man.
- Gather around, movie crew! It's time for our next parable-to-screen project. **Remind me, what is a parable?** That's right, parables are stories Jesus told to help explain things about God.
- The parable we are movie-fying today has an interesting backstory. Jesus told this story because someone asked him a very tricky question.
 - **Let's find out more in Luke 10:25–29.**
 - The expert in the law tested Jesus' knowledge of God's words, but of course, Jesus knew everything ... he was the son of God. So Jesus told a parable to help this expert understand what God's words about loving your neighbor really meant.
- For today's production, I'm going to read out the narration from the script, and all you actors have to do your best to do what is being described.
- Places, everyone. The Parable of the Good Samaritan, take one. Action!
- **Read Luke 10:30.**
 - What you see before you is a crime scene. A man is lying on the ground, in so much pain because he had just been robbed and badly beaten. He tries to cry out for help, but he can't. Won't someone please notice him and come to his aid?
 - **Crew, let's all shout out, "Someone help him!" "Anybody, please?" "Call 911!"**
 - Thankfully, other people were traveling down the same road.
- **Read Luke 10:31–32.**
 - It's a priest. Surely he would take pity on this poor man. He sees the injured man, frowns a little, and ... I can't believe it. He just keeps on walking!

- **Crew, let's all let out a big gasp!**
- Then, a Levite, who would have worked with the priest at a temple, came down the same road and saw the battered robbery victim on the side of the road. Surely he would help? Let's see, he sees the man. He slows down a little, but then he keeps walking, making sure to walk super far away from the poor guy.
- **Crew, another big gasp, please!**
- But then, when all hope seemed lost, a new character entered the scene.
- **Read Luke 10:33–35.**
 - So, a Samaritan man, someone who would not have gotten along with the injured man just based on where they were each from, stopped to help. He knelt by the man. He checked for a pulse. He leaned in to see if he was still breathing. Then he cleaned up his wounds, helped him up, and took him to a place where the man could rest and recover!
 - **Crew, let's hear it for the Good Samaritan!**
 - The people who were listening to Jesus' parable would have known that the Samaritan man was not supposed to be the good guy in that story. They didn't usually get along with people from Samaria, so imagine their surprise when the Samaritan ended up being the hero of Jesus' parable!
 - Now it was Jesus' turn to ask a question.
- **Read Luke 10:36–37.**
- Jesus helped his listeners understand that we can love everyone the way God loves them. We can be the ones to help out or receive help from unlikely places, just like how God sent an unexpected helper in today's parable.
- *End scene!*

BIG IDEA | God sends us helpers.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use [the video provided](#) for this week to reveal this week's Big Idea, like you're announcing the winner of a movie award.
- The nominees for this week's Big Idea are:
 - God helps us know what's true.
 - God sends us helpers.
 - We belong in God's family.
 - God gives us second chances.
 - We can give back to God.
- And the Big Idea is...**God sends us helpers!**

VIDEO | A Clip From "Bad Guys"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this scene](#) from the movie "Bad Guys" (if you're short on time, show from 0:06 to 1:40). This is a group of bad guys who are forced to try to become model citizens to stay out of trouble. But along the way, they unexpectedly become good guys. and save a friend. We always suggest viewing the clip beforehand to make sure you think it's a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Show [this video](#) of the parable of the drowning man, or prepare a few volunteers to help you act out the parable like a movie scene. Relate it to the Bible story and how God sends up helpers, even when it may not be how we expect.
- In a lot of movies, the real heroes turn out to be the ones you would never expect. Think about some of the movies you've seen.
 - Spider-Man was a regular teenager who ended up becoming the friendly neighborhood hero.
 - Mulan was a loving daughter who did not belong in battle but went anyway to save her father and bring her family honor.

- Mirabel was the most ordinary one in her family, and she had no special gift, but she saved the whole casita!
- In the clip we just saw, these bad guys discover they actually care about one another and choose to do something very good, even if that puts them at risk. They weren't thinking about their own needs and wants. Snake needed help, so they did everything they could to help Snake.
- Jesus' parable shows us that anyone can help and be a neighbor to someone in need. **God sends us helpers!**

OBJECT LESSON | Set Medic

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a small, travel-sized first aid kit [like this](#) and show the essential items inside, like bandages, antiseptic wipes, and antibiotic ointment.*
- As you can imagine, accidents can happen on a movie set. All those wild stunts? Long days of filming on a hot day? Whether it's a twisted ankle or dehydration, movie teams include medics who can tend to the cast and crew's health needs.
- Set medics probably have more advanced tools than this, but let's talk about a basic first-aid kit. It contains some important items that you might need whenever someone gets a cut or scrape.
 - First, you can wipe the wound clean with an antiseptic wipe. This kills germs that might try to get into the wound and cause an infection.
 - Bandages are for patching up wounds and keeping out dirt. More importantly, bandages keep out the germs in the dirt. In today's Bible story, the Good Samaritan bandaged the injured man's wounds.
 - Then, the Good Samaritan poured oil and wine onto the man's wounds. Why would he do that? Wine has alcohol in it, and alcohol kills germs. Oil and wine were, in those days, like this antibiotic ointment is today.
- This first aid kit is small and travel-sized. That way, I can bring it with me wherever I go, like when I go camping or hiking. I can keep it in my bag or put it in my car. It's good to be prepared for emergencies—and it's good to always be prepared to help someone in need, just like the Good Samaritan did.
- **God sends us helpers**, and sometimes God sends us to help!

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 27:1–5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the passage aloud or invite a volunteer to read.*
- God sends helpers, so when we are in times of trouble, we can turn to God for help. When we do, we have nothing to fear.
 - **Let's read Psalm 27:1.** Just like how light makes darkness go away, God helps us when we feel scared or troubled.
 - **Let's read Psalm 27:2–3.** We don't need to be afraid of anyone when we turn to God because God is our stronghold who will protect us. Even if people come our way and try to cause problems, we don't need to worry. God will make them fall, and we will be safe with God.
 - **Let's read Psalm 27:4.** But we shouldn't think of God only as a shield or a protector. God is our Creator, and we should always want to be close to God, where we can feel God's love and see God's beauty.
 - **Let's read Psalm 27:5.** So when trouble comes, turn to God for help. God will be there to keep you safe.
- The injured man in today's Bible story had no one to turn to. But God sent just the right helper he needed, just like how **God sends us helpers** today.

VIDEO | Big Picture, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Big Picture Storyboard

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a corkboard, black foam board, or any board, really. Provide large index cards and writing utensils for kids to use. Have kids write or draw according to the prompt, and then stick it on the board using pins or tape. Try grouping similar responses in the same area. Prepare multiple boards if you have a large group.*
- A storyboard is created before a movie goes into production so everyone can see the big picture. This ensures everyone is on the same page and knows what this movie is all about! Let's pause and storyboard what we learned today!
- Think back on the Parable of the Good Samaritan and write or draw one thing about the story that stuck out to you most. Afterward, put it up on the storyboard, and those of you who are willing can share with us why that part was most memorable for you.
- Okay, now that we have our big picture storyboard up and running, let's talk a little more about what this parable teaches us about God and our life with God.
 - **Why was it surprising that the Samaritan helped and the priest and Levite didn't?**
 - **What are things that stop people from helping others today?**
 - **Can you remember a time someone helped you?**
 - **What are some ways we can help people?**
- **God sends us helpers** but don't forget that sometimes we are the helpers God sends!

RESPONSE | Make It Reel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out a copy of the [printable](#) provided to each kid where kids will write or draw one action step for the week in the space provided. Feel free to send the printables home or hold on to them so that by the end of Week 5, kids can make "reels" by taping or gluing their weekly film strips together.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Preteens may enjoy being independent with and controlling many things in their life, which is great! Help preteens see that receiving help is a way they can invite others into what they are doing and why that might just be a great way to share Jesus with someone.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *As you discuss how God sends us helpers, help kids communicate some things that they could want to have a buddy for, and create opportunities for kids to be available.*
- It's time to add to your life movie reel! What happens next? What can we do about what we learned today?
- **Write or draw one way you can ask for help and one way you can be a helper this week.**
- We can always turn to God when we need help. Sometimes the best way to help a friend is to talk to a trusted adult about what's happening. God has surrounded each of us with people who love us and whom we can ask for help. **God sends us helpers.**

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!*
- **"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for sending helpers when we are in need. You always watch over us and help us. We pray that you will also send us to help others when they are in need. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

● SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- **What did the priest and the Levite do when they saw the wounded man by the road?** *They passed by on the other side of the road.*
- **What did the Samaritan do when he saw the wounded man by the road?** *He took pity on him, bandaged his wounds, and took him to an inn on his own donkey.*
- **What did Jesus say makes someone a neighbor?** *Having mercy on others.*
- **Read Psalm 27:4. What are some ways you can “dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life”?**

● APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **How can you be a good neighbor to someone in your life?**
- **Who are the good neighbors and helpers in your life?**
- **What are some small ways you can be a helper to the people around you?**

ACTIVITY | Zoetrope Movie

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, make a zoetrope similar to [this tutorial](#). Give each kid a copy of the [printable](#) and have them cut out the two sections on the page. Fold along the dotted lines of the black part and cut out the white slits. Tape them together to form one long line. Then in the blank white space on one side, have them draw a sequence of the Good Samaritan helping the wounded man (about ten images total)—stick figures are great! Then have them tape the remaining ends together to form a circle with their art on the inside. Tape the zoetrope onto a small paper plate and spin it on the table and view the animation through the slits. See a worked example [here](#).*

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Make a bandage craft like [this](#) except with the Big Idea written on the inside.*

- Animated movies originally were made like this. It's a zoetrope! Let's make a movie!
- These are some amazing movies of the Good Samaritan. Take these movies home to remember that we can be loving helpers to others, and when we're in need, **God sends us helpers.**