



Everyday FAITH Family Page

I Spy Salvation's Story

Law/Gospel

The command to love our neighbor is a command to be perfectly compassionate to everyone whom we encounter. **Though we fall short, Jesus acts compassionately toward us, forgiving our sin, binding us up, and restoring us to eternal life.**

Bible Words

Love one another: just as I have loved you.
John 13:34

The Big Picture

Even though Jews and Samaritans were both descended from the Israelites of the Old Testament, they had different religious beliefs.

- The Samaritans believed that the books written by Moses were the only true Word of God and did not consider Jerusalem to be the center of worship as the Jews did.
- The Jews believed that the Samaritans had broken God's covenant with Israel and were no longer part of God's chosen people.

As a result, the two groups avoided each other.

SOURCE: *The Lutheran Study Bible*, p. 1557
copyright © 2009 CPH.

The Case of the Oil and Bandages: Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25–37

A teacher of the Law tested Jesus by asking how to inherit eternal life. Jesus pointed him to God's commands to love the Lord and to love one's neighbor. Instead of realizing that sin kept him from doing this perfectly and that he needed a Savior, the man tried to justify himself. He asked, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29).

Jesus answered the question with a parable, a story with deep meaning. In His story, robbers attacked a traveling man and nearly killed him. Three different men walked by the injured man on the road.

The first man, a priest who served in the temple, passed by on the other side of the road to avoid him. The second man was a Levite, a temple worker. He also walked past the injured man.

The third man was a Samaritan, an enemy of the Jews. But instead of walking by, this man dressed the man's wounds, used his own animal to bring the man to an inn, and paid for his care.

Jesus asked which person showed he was a neighbor to the assaulted man. When the teacher of the Law identified the last man, Jesus told him, "Go, and do likewise" (v. 37).

Love Your Neighbor

Jesus' parable undoubtedly made the teacher of the Law uncomfortable. The priest and Levite who failed to help the injured man were dedicated to serve God and would have known the Law, like the teacher. Their actions show their sinfulness and their desires to serve themselves rather than others.

We also should feel uncomfortable when we hear this parable. Too many times we act like the priest and Levite, hurrying through our lives without stopping to help people in need. But like the Samaritan, our Savior shows us mercy, granting forgiveness to His sinful people. How blessed we are to have a God who loves us and motivates us to love and serve others.

Prayer

*Jesus, help us to gladly love and serve others, just as You have loved us.
In Your holy name. Amen.*

cph.org/SundaySchool

Permission to copy for use with I Spy curriculum. Scripture: ESV®.
Copyright © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.

