

Godly Play story – The Good Samaritan

Movements

Slowly take the gold box of story materials and place it in the middle of the circle (within your reach). Sit back and begin when you and the children are ready.

Lift the box and examine it.

Slowly move the box to your side and lift the lid, keeping the contents concealed from the children. This increases the mystery and decreases the distraction of the other items in the box.

Take out the brown underlay.

Explore the material, crumpling it up and changing its shape, then finally smoothing it out. As you do so, look around at the children, to show that you are inviting them to wonder and make suggestions. Respond to any suggestions with 'Hmmm, yes, it could be a...' or 'I wonder if it is a...'. Let them use their imagination so they are involved in building the story. You may want to suggest a few things like a giant biscuit or a piece of wood. It is also fine to let there be silence – the children will be wondering in their heads.

Wait a moment and take the long brown piece of felt out of the box. Try it out in different positions and shapes.

Words

Look. The box is the colour gold. Gold is very precious and valuable. Perhaps there is something valuable inside. You know, there could be a parable inside. Parables are very valuable. They're worth even more than gold.

The box looks old. Parables are also old. They are older than you, and they are older than me. They are almost two thousand years old.

I wonder if there is a parable inside? Let's open it and see.

Hmmm. I wonder what this could be?

There's so much brown, no green, no blue. There is nothing but brown...and the brown is rough and scratchy. I wonder what it could be.

I wonder what this could really be?

It's hard to know what this could really be if there is only brown.

Well, let's see if there is anything else in the box to help us.

I wonder what this could be?

As before, allow the children to wonder in their heads or make suggestions, so they feel the story belongs to them too.

Finally, lay the road diagonally from one corner to the other corner, starting at your near left.

Take the two cities out of the box and place Jerusalem and Jericho at opposite ends of the road, with Jerusalem nearest to you.

Take the two black pieces of felt from the box one at a time. Again, look up and allow time for the children to wonder what they could be. Then place them at either side of the road, at the midpoint.

Take out the two thieves and put one behind each of the black felt pieces by the road.

Sit back and prepare. Wait a moment for the children to settle if they have become unfocussed. (If necessary say, 'We'll wait until everyone is ready' before you begin.)

Take the traveler out of the box and place him at the Jerusalem end of the road near to you. Begin to move him slowly along the road as you speak.

Let's see if there is anything else to help us.

Oh look, it must be a road. It's going from this place to that place.

Ah, look at these. I wonder what these could be?

There is no light in them at all. They are like shadows.

Let's see if there is anything else to help us build the parable.

Now I think we have everything we need. We're ready to begin.

There was once a man called Jesus who did such amazing things and said such wonderful things that people followed him.

One day a person asked Jesus a question. 'What is the most important thing in life? Jesus said, 'You already know.'

'That is true, I do.' the person replied, 'It is to love God and love your neighbour. The person pause a while and then asked, 'But, who is my neighbour?' So Jesus told this parable.

There was once a man who was going from Jerusalem down to Jericho.

Take the robbers out from behind the 'rocks' and slam them down on the traveler, to represent their attack.

Then move the robbers off the underlay to your side. When you say 'half dead', turn over the traveler and place him at the side of the road by one of the rocks.

Move the priest from Jerusalem slowly down the road. Don't hurry.

When the priest comes to the injured traveler, move him to the other side of the road, past the traveler, and then back into the middle of the road and on to Jericho. Then move the priest off the underlay.

Move the Levite slowly down the road. When he comes to the injured traveler, move him to the other side of the road, past the traveler, and then back into the middle of the road and on to Jericho. Then move the Levite off the underlay.

Move the Samaritan slowly down the road until he comes to the injured traveler.

Move the Samaritan to the traveler.

Then reach into the box and take out the covering piece that shows the Samaritan putting a coat on the injured traveler. Put this card over the figures of the Samaritan and the traveler. Move the stranger and the traveler with the covering piece along the road almost all the way to Jericho.

As he went along his way he was attacked by robbers.

They hurt him, took everything he had, and left him by the side of the road half dead.

There was also a priest of the temple who was going down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

As he walked he came to the place where the person had been robbed and left half dead. But the priest crossed to the other side of the road and went on his way.

There was someone else who worked at the temple, helping the priests. He was called a Levite. He was also going from Jerusalem to Jericho. When he came to the place where the man was lying, he went to the other side and carried on his journey.

Another person was traveling on the road who did not live in Jerusalem – he was a Samaritan. He was visiting from a country called Samaria. The people in Samaria did not like the people from Jerusalem, and the people in Jerusalem did not like the people from Samaria. They had been enemies for many generations.

When the stranger - the Samaritan - came to the person who had been hurt and left half dead, he went to him.

The stranger put medicine on the places where the man was hurt. He gave him his coat to put on. Then he put him on his donkey and took him to a place to spend the night.

The stranger even stayed with him, and in the morning he paid enough money for the man to stay until he was better.

Sit back and ponder the whole parable. While you are doing this, move the covering piece to the side and line up the figures on the underlay facing the children.

As you begin the wondering questions you can make eye contact with the children.

Touch the traveler or move the figure forward slightly.

If there are no verbal responses to these questions, you could place different figures beside the traveler and ask, 'I wonder if it could be this one? This one? Perhaps it's this one.'

Don't hurry the questions. Allow time for pupils to wonder in silence and/or to share their responses with each other. Allow discussion to flow naturally if the children have lots of thoughts they want to share.

Now, I wonder who is the neighbour to the traveler, the man who was robbed and left half dead?

I wonder if the traveler has a name?

I wonder how the traveler felt when someone came to help him?

I wonder how the traveler felt when he knew it was a Samaritan who had helped him?

I wonder who is your neighbour?

