Lesson 3: Compassion

Today's Bible Story

One day, an expert in the Law of Moses came and asked Jesus a question to see what he would say. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus answered, "What does Scripture say?"

The lawyer replied, "Scripture says: 'You are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.' It also says: 'You are to love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"

Jesus said, "Yes. Those who do this have eternal life." But the man wanted to prove that he was right with God. So he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied with a story:

A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him and took everything he had. They beat him and left him by the side of the road, half dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road. But when he saw the injured man, he walked by on the other side of the road. Later, a Levite who served at the temple came to the same place. When he saw the man, he also kept going on the other side.

But then a man from Samaria came traveling along that same road. When he saw the injured man, he felt sorry for him and had compassion. He went over to him, took care of the man's wounds and bandaged them. Then he put the injured man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.

The next day the Samaritan gave the innkeeper two silver coins and said, "Please take care of this man. If you spend more, I will pay you when I return."

When Jesus finished the story he asked, "Now, which one of these three people was a real neighbor to the man who was beaten by robbers?" The lawyer answered, "The one who showed compassion." Jesus said, "You should go and do the same!"



From Luke 10:25-37

Bible Rhyme

A man asked Jesus: "Who's my neighbor?
"Should I have to help a stranger?"
Jesus told the man a story
about what actions give God glory.

"A traveler was robbed and beaten.
"He lay half-dead beside the street.
"Two men saw but passed him by.
"They walked along the other side.

"But then came a Samaritan
"who stopped to help the injured man.
"This one was a neighbor true,
"showing just what you should do!"

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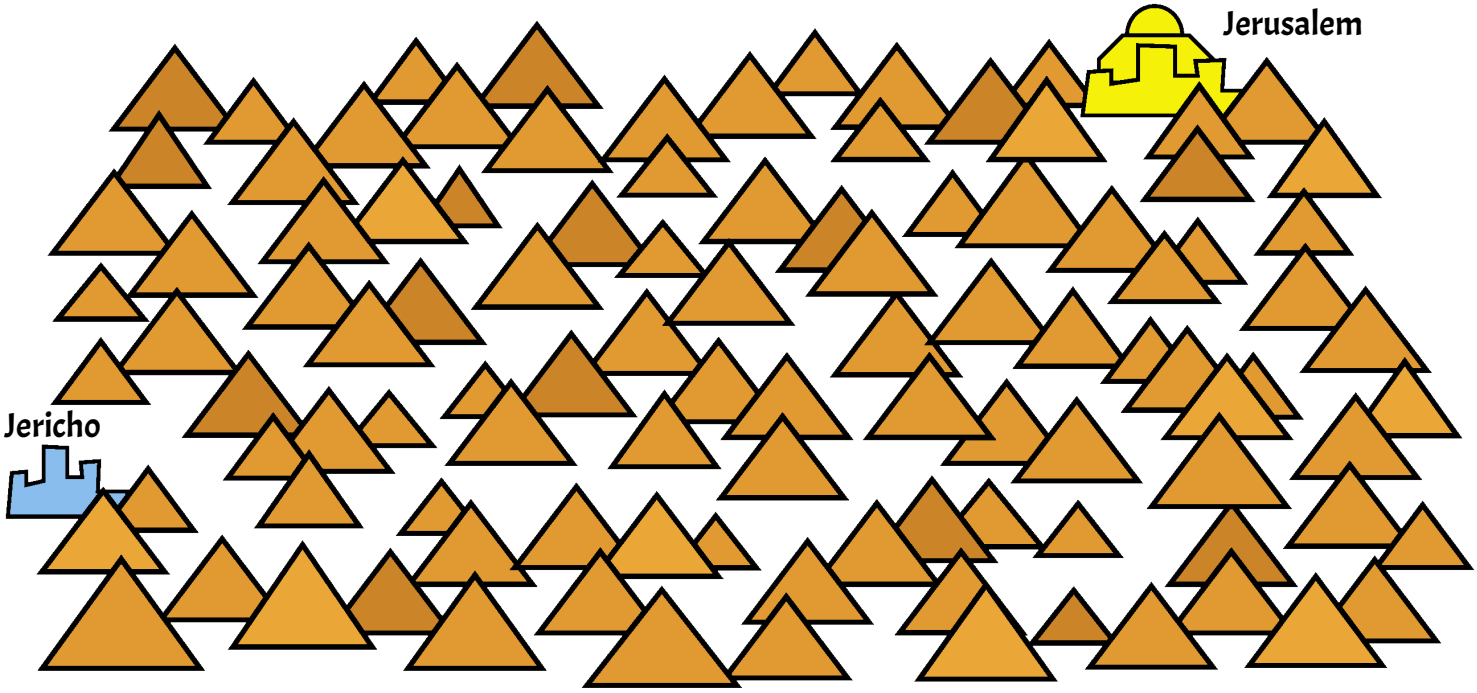
In Jesus' day, the road between the cities of Jerusalem and Jericho was a dangerous one. Winding through rocky hills and highlands, it was a place where bandits would often ambush unsuspecting travelers. In the maze below, see if you can find a path through the hills from Jericho to Jerusalem.



In Jesus' parable, the good Samaritan was the only one to stop and help the injured man.

Circle the words below that express different kinds of help.

aid destruction assistance hurt support

hindrance encouragement injury rescue intimidation

deception deliverance insult comfort obstruction betrayal

attack guidance counsel sabotage harm salvation

READ Psalm 121. This psalm is called a song of ascents. It was sung by Jewish worshipers as they journeyed along that same dangerous highland road on their way up to Jerusalem for the yearly festivals. This psalm also gives us many promises and reminds us of the one in whom we trust.

From where does our help come? _____ Who is the one who has come to save us? _____

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