

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 3

# Teachings (of Jesus)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

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## (of Jesus)



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# Christian faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Christian Faith, Church, Christian art and writing and Christian holy days books.)

## Contents

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# Teachings of Jesus

Much of the New Testament is about the teachings of Jesus. Jesus often taught using stories that everyone could understand. But they were used to show a general principle. Here is one of them.

In Jesus' time, the Samaritans lived in a region of ancient Palestine called Samaria. The Samaritans were Hebrews but they followed a different form of Judaism than the rest of the Jewish people, and in the past had denied they were Jews. Other Jews looked down on the Samaritans and despised them because there was a long history of war and hatred between Jews and Samaritans. Jews and Samaritans both lived under Roman rule, but were sworn enemies. Levites were a group of Jews who had been given special authority by God to make sacrifices in the Temple.

On one occasion an expert in Jewish religious law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But the man wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"



In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."





# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

**a** Write a sentence in which you found the word 'mercy'.

**b** From that sentence, write what you think 'mercy' means.

**c** Write a new sentence using the word 'mercy'.

**d** Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'mercy'.

**e** Draw a small picture that illustrates the meaning of 'mercy'.



# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: despised	hated



# Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.  
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,  
can you rewrite your  
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

**There is  
nothing wrong  
with rewriting; even  
the best authors  
rewrite their  
work.**



123  
4

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



A Samaritan took the beaten man to an inn.

An expert in Jewish law asks Jesus how he can inherit eternal life.

A Levite passed the beaten man and did not stop.

A man is attacked by robbers.

An expert in Jewish law asks Jesus who is his neighbour.



# Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) How did Jews feel about the Samaritan people?
- (b) Where was the man when he was attacked by robbers?
- (c) Who passed by the beaten man and did not stop to help?
- (d) Why did the Samaritan stop to help?
- (e) What did the Samaritan do to help?



# Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 If you saw someone by the side of the road whose car was broken down, what would you do?

2 Why was the Samaritan a good neighbour?

3 What do you think Jesus meant when he told the expert in Jewish law to "go and do likewise"?

4 Why do you think the Jewish priest and the Levite did not stop to help the beaten man?





# Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



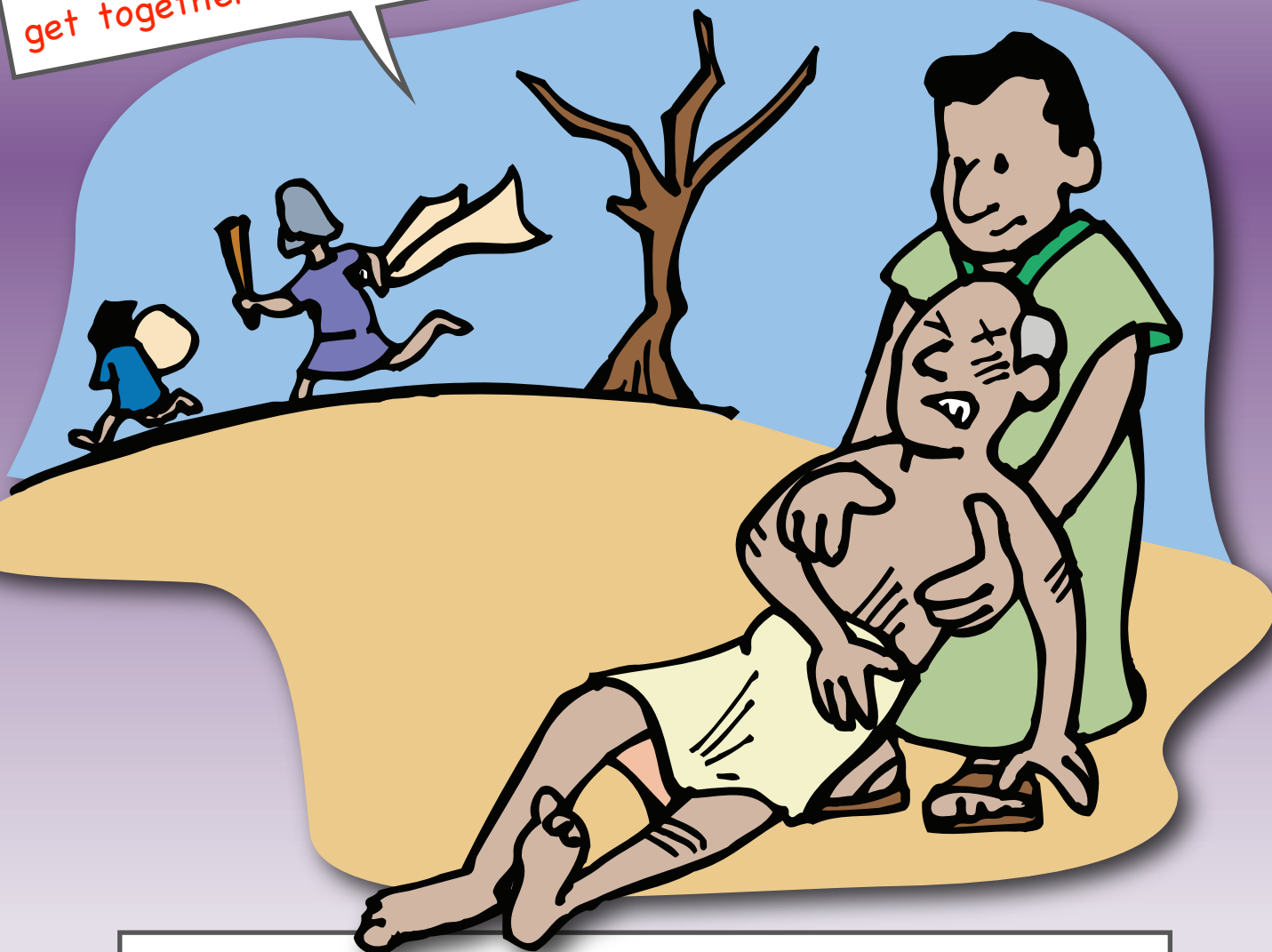
- 1 Do you agree that helping strangers, even if they are your enemy, is a way to be a good neighbour?
- 2 What does Jesus mean by neighbour? What people are your neighbours?
- 3 What does Jesus mean when he says to "Love your neighbour as yourself"?
- 4 Why do you think Jesus made a Samaritan the hero of his parable, and not a Jew?
- 5 What are some other ways you can love your neighbour as yourself?





# Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



## Discussion topic: Helping your Neighbour

Is it always a good idea to show mercy and compassion to others? Discuss why this might be difficult and why it is important.



# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



## Helping others

Imagine you are telling this story to a group of people sitting around a well. One day you are walking down the road when you see a person lying in the road who has been hurt. As you get closer, you can see that he is someone who once pushed you down and took your pocket money. There is no one else around...

(Now continue the story by writing about what you do next...)

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