

# Storyteller

## Lesson 1

# COMPASSIONATE

The Good Samaritan  
Luke 10:30-37

### Setup:

(Possible whiteboard for creating a list)

The definition of compassion is a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for someone who is hurting, in pain, or has misfortune. This feeling is accompanied by a strong desire to help.

Jesus is the greatest example of someone who extended true

compassion. Not only did Jesus have compassion and heal people from physical suffering, he also showed the greatest compassion through His death on the cross.

It's not always easy to show compassion, especially when we feel like the person deserves their misfortune. Compassion is a true mark of being a Christ follower.

Let's take a look at Colossians 3:10-13. There are things we are told that we need to "put on", or "clothe" ourselves with. Let's list some of them together:

Do any of you need help getting dressed? More than likely you don't. You've come to a place in your physical development and maturity where you put on your own clothes. The same is true of your spiritual maturity. You should be at a place spiritually that you know what to pull out of your spiritual closet and put on. Putting it more clearly, in order to demonstrate the things on this list we have to be proactive and do something. This will not come naturally to us because our nature is selfish and sinful. If we don't choose to put on these qualities of Jesus, then we expose ourselves... we are spiritually naked. 😊

Let me pray with you.

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## Lesson 1

# COMPASSIONATE

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37

### Parent Que:

This week your student will read the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus told this parable as a response to a question from a lawyer. Jesus had been teaching that we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. The lawyer wanted to know who's his neighbor. Jesus emphasized the importance of extending mercy and compassion to our "neighbor". Our neighbor is simply someone in need. As parents, you can model compassion to your student in how you live, and also extend it toward them. Often times we can forget that our students have a lot of needs, because many times those needs look so different from our own and are left unspoken. Your student's world is filled with demands and pressures unlike the ones you and I faced, and they can take their toll. I think that often we can be like the Priest and Levite in the story of the Good Samaritan and hurry past those in our own home, not recognizing the ongoing needs that are unmet because we are too wrapped up in our own. Ask God to help you be wise to the needs of your son or daughter. Allow His heart of compassion to steer you to action as you look to meet them in their moments of need.

### Key Scriptures:

Luke 10:25-37      Luke 6:35-36

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## Lesson 1

# COMPASSIONATE

## The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37; Luke 6:35-36

A couple weeks back we ventured into The Golden Rule of treating others how you want to be treated. Jesus gave a great example through the parable of the Good Samaritan of not just what it looks like to be a neighbor, but what it looks like to NOT be a neighbor. Guide the conversation both ways, because we've all been like the Levite and Priest passing by a person in need.

Have you ever lived by someone you just didn't get along with or like very much?

Have you ever had an experience with a helpful neighbor? Someone who helped you or your family out with something? If so, share the situation.

Often times when Jesus was teaching, He would tell a story to help people gain better understanding. These stories were called parables. The story of the Good Samaritan is such a parable. In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus was giving an answer to a question asked in:

➤ [Read](#) Luke 10:25-29

What was the question asked in verse 29?

➤ [Discuss](#)

How would you answer that question, "Who is your *neighbor*?"

Jesus decided to tell a story to explain what it looks like to love your neighbor.

➤ [Read](#) Luke 10:30-35

What happened to the man who was traveling to Jericho?

Who was the first person to see the man laying by the road?

What did he do?

Who was the next person to encounter the man on the road?

What did he do?

➤ [Read](#) Leviticus 19:18

What did the law teach? (remind students that we are no longer under the law, but there are parts of the old law that Jesus repeats in the New Testament that remain as guidelines for how we are to live as followers of Jesus. )



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Did they follow this law?

- [Read](#) (again) Luke 10:30

Who is the last person to come along and encounter the wounded Jewish man?

Does anyone remember how the Samaritans and Jews felt about each other? (We discussed this in the story of the woman at the well.)

- [Read](#) (again) Luke 10:33

How is the Samaritan described?

What does it say that the Samaritan felt for the Jewish man?

Did the Samaritan only “feel” compassion, or did it move him to a response?

How does the Samaritan respond? Does he just do the minimum to help?

- [Read](#) Luke 10:36-37

Who is the neighbor in this story and why?

What does Jesus say should be done in response to this parable?



The Point

Jesus taught over and over how to view all people as important, even more important than ourselves. Jesus was a living example of compassion, demonstrating it by giving up His life for an entire world that didn't deserve His great sacrifice of love. Through compassion, Jesus saw our need and provided for it.

APPLICATION [Read](#) Luke 6:35-36

**Often times we read of when Jesus had compassion on a person or a group of people, and then acted on it. Jesus' compassion moved Him to action. Is there a person or a situation in your world that you need to extend compassion? What could you do this week to follow the example of Jesus and act on that?**

- [Catch-Up/Journal/Pray](#)

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## Lesson 2

# Generous

Matt 13:31–32; Matt. 17:20; Phil. 1:6  
The Grain of Mustard Seed

*Setup: (Have mustard seeds on hand for students for a visual along with images of mustard plant fields)*

Last week we learned from Jesus about compassion and we looked at a parable; these short stories that Jesus would use to make a message clear

and understood to His listeners. Jesus was the best storyteller, creating word pictures that drove home a message.

This week you will take a look at the mustard seed. Look at the mustard seed given to you as you arrived. As you can see for yourself the mustard seed is very small, but it can produce a big and beautiful harvest. (Put graphic of the mustard plant in full bloom) God can use just a little and build ginormous results.

Look with me for a moment at a story when Jesus took a simple little lunch offered by a small boy to feed a very huge and very hungry crowd. Turn with me to Matthew 14

<sup>14</sup> Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. *(Jesus had a feeling of compassion and then He did something!)*

<sup>15</sup> That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

<sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

<sup>17</sup> "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered.

<sup>18</sup> "Bring them here," he said. <sup>19</sup> Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. <sup>20</sup> They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. <sup>21</sup> About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!

This is the generous God we have. He is the generous grower of little we can offer. You will look at this more in groups tonight.

Let me pray with you.

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## Lesson 2

# Generous

Matt. 13:31–32; Matt. 17:20; Phil. 1:6

The Grain of Mustard Seed

**Parent Que:** There's a passage within the book of Zechariah, chapter 4 verse 10. It says: "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand." These were words spoken to the Jews who found themselves discouraged over the building of the temple and its appearance that was less grand than the original built by King Solomon. Your students the supernatural ability of God this week, that can take the little we offer and grow it into something more. The small planting for the kingdom is grown by His power, authority and Spirit. At times you may see glimpses of good things growing in your student. Don't feel discouraged in those days that it may not be producing as much as you would like. God is an expert at carrying out His work. He doesn't need a whole lot to work with. Pray that your student will have faith of at least a tiny mustard seed and that they would plant it in rich soil to produce a kingdom harvest!

**Key Scripture:** Matthew 13:31–32; Matthew 17:20; Philippians 1:6

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## Lesson 2

# Generous

Matt 13:31–32; Matt 17:20; Phil. 1:6  
The Grain of Mustard Seed

Small beginnings, great results. This is a reality of how God's economy works. It's likely you have witnessed this in your own life. We bring the little we have to God, and He brings about a harvest of more. This is applicable to your investment in your few. God is really great at growing things! Trust that He will cultivate what has been planted in this season of JH!

Have you ever started a project or a paper for school that you were just sure you would never finish? Maybe your room got a little messy and then ended up taking an entire Saturday to clean. Can anyone relate to that?

Mustard seeds are very, very small seeds. They are usually just about 1 to 2 mm around. the right growing conditions, mustard seeds germinate within 10 days. Mustard plants can grow between 6-20 feet tall!

Keeping that in mind read the following parable.

➤ [Read Matthew 13:31–32](#)

➤ [Discuss](#)

What does Jesus compare to the Kingdom of Heaven? Why?

What else do you think Jesus might be trying to teach in these verses?

Can you think of a “*Kingdom of Heaven*” mustard seed you've planted?

➤ [Read Matthew 17:20](#)

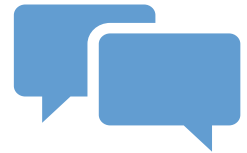
➤ [Discuss](#)

What does Jesus compare a mustard seed to in this verse?

What does Jesus say can happen with a small amount of faith?

How would you explain faith?

Why do you think it takes just a little faith to accomplish big things?



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➤ [Read](#) [Philippians 1:6](#)

Who is the beginner of the work mentioned in this verse?

Who is the work in?

What will happen with this started by God?

When will the work be finished?



The Point

God can take the very little we have to offer and use it in huge ways to make an impact for His Kingdom.

**APPLICATION** What is your mustard seed of investment for God's Kingdom?

Is there something else you could be doing to make a kingdom investment? (sharing your faith with a friend, being kind to your sibling, respecting your parents, serving at home or church, etc.)

What is your mustard seed faith right now? Are you believing that God can do even more with it?

[Catch-Up/Journal/Pray](#)

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## Lesson 3

# The Good Shepherd

Matt 18:12–13; Luke 15:1–7; John 10:11

## The Lost Sheep

*Setup: For fun you could open with a game of Pictionary. Placing groups against one another. If you rotated boys vs. girls in approx. 7 rounds, one minute each. Or adapt the game telestrations.*

### **What is a parable?**

A parable is a short story designed to convey a concept to be understood and/or a principle to be put into practice. This, however, tells us more about the intent of a parable than what it actually is. The word “parable” in Greek literally means, “to set beside,” as in the English word “comparison” or “similitude.” In the Jewish culture of biblical times, things were often explained in word pictures.

### **Why did Jesus use parables?**

Word pictures don't draw attention to technicalities (like the Jewish law) but to attitudes, concepts, and characteristics. Jesus was speaking a language that all Jews could understand but emphasized attitudes rather than outward appearance. The parables of Jesus often times remained a mystery to those with a hardened heart because parables require the listeners to be self-critical and put themselves in the appropriate place in the story.

Tonight, you will look at a parable about a lost sheep and see Jesus as a Good Shepherd.

Let me pray for you.

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## Lesson 3

# The Good Shepherd

Matt 18:12-13; Luke 15:1-7; John 10:11

## The Lost Sheep

### Parent Que:

This week we will learn about how Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He comes looking for us, pursuing us in our sin and wandering away until he finds us. He leaves behind the 99 to find the one lost sheep. And He Rejoices greatly when He returns with the one. He is pursuing our children more than we ever can. Be encouraged as you point them to Jesus and his love. Even if it seems like they are not listening, they are! Unconditional love from Jesus and us parents is irresistible - even to the teen who appears most resistant. Keep loving, pursuing and seeking them out.

I will add this and believe it with my whole heart - especially you Dads!!! Pursue your daughters! In this world of relationships and electronics, you are the number one man in their lives. Continue to hug your junior high girl! Date her - take her out for one on one time. Do it often! The investment is worth it. She may resist at first but secretly wants it and needs it. Do not stop pursuing her when it seems hard or awkward. Pray for ways to connect and then be willing to do what the Holy Spirit prompts you to do.

### Key Scriptures:

Matt 18:12-13

Luke 15:1-7

John 10:11

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## Lesson 3

### The Good Shepherd

Matt 18:12–14; Luke 15:1-7; John 10:11

#### The Lost Sheep

Jesus was amazing at His ability to focus on the “one” out of the all the rest who had need. Within your few there might be the “one” who wears you out, challenges your authority, or maybe they just bring the worst out of you. You could also have the “one” who rarely shows up to group or shows up but remains completely quiet.

Share a time when you lost something really important to you. How did you feel? If you found it, share what that experience was like.

- **Read** Luke 15:1-7 (you could have students partner up to read the passage and assign questions to the groups)

Who were the people who often came to listen to Jesus teach?

Who became upset by this and complained?

In this first parable, what is lost?

What does the shepherd do when he finds the sheep?

How does Jesus compare the sheep to people?



- **Discuss**

Was there ever a time when you felt lost, or alone, and then you sensed that God was near? If so, would you be willing to share?

Is it hard for you to think that God would pursue you if you were far from Him? If so, why?

- **Read** John 10:11



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What does Jesus call Himself?

What does He do as the Good Shepherd?

➤ [Read Romans 5:6-8](#)

At what time did Jesus come for us?

What was our condition when Jesus came?



Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He is concerned for all of His sheep; not wanting even one to be lost from the flock.

**APPLICATION** Thinking about what we read tonight about Jesus as the Good Shepherd and us as His sheep; where do you see yourself?

Are you:

- in the flock in the sheep pen?
- grazing the grass?
- wandering in the wilderness away from the flock?
- easy prey for a predator to attack?
- about to be eaten by a wolf?

If you are not in the flock with your Good Shepherd, what needs to look different this week to make that a reality?

[Catch-Up/Journal/Pray](#)