



**SENIOR Teacher's Guide**  
(9 - 12 year olds)

# *Luking & Learning* from Jesus

# SENIOR Teachers Guide

## *Luking & Learning from Jesus*

**Aim:** The aim of this short series of Bible Lessons is to take a *Luke* at the range of different people Jesus met, how *He* helped them and what this teaches us about our concern for others.

The basis of these lessons is found in Luke's Gospel, specifically, chapters 5 - 10. The series will consider:

### People Jesus Met

- The **Leper** (Luke 5: 12 - 16)
- The **Lifeless** (Luke 7: 11 - 17)
- The **Lunchless** (Luke 9: 10 - 17)
- The **Lawyer** (Luke 10: 25 - 37)

### How Jesus Helped

- He showed His **POWER** over **DISEASE**
- He showed His **AUTHORITY** over **DEATH**
- He showed His ability to **SATISFY** the **HUNGRY**
- He showed His ability to **SEARCH** the **HEART**

### What Jesus Expects

Jesus expects His people to show **compassion** towards others by following His example in meeting their needs, whatever the **cost** or **circumstance**.

# Love God and Love Others

[Matt. 22: 37-40]

# The **Leper** Luke 5: 12 - 16



## Introduce it

A Hungarian doctor, Ignaz Semmelweis (1818-1865), was the first man in history to associate the need for hand washing with the fight against infection and death. He washed his hands before examining maternity patients and after eleven years of this new practice the death rate was only one in fifty. It had been a great deal higher previously. But in spite of his apparent success, many still disbelieved him. The doctors and midwives had been delivering babies for centuries without washing, and they thought no one, however outspoken, was going to change them now! But they did change, and many lives were saved.

Similarly, the religious leaders resisted Jesus ministry of teaching the people and performing miracles, often citing Him as a blasphemer or trouble maker (Matthew 26: 63 - 66). Jesus, of course, was neither. He had compassion for people, regardless of what others thought about them and many people were helped.



## Teach it

Jesus had finished His time alone praying in the mountains. Many people followed Him because of the many miracles He performed and the wide ranging and interesting teaching He brought to the people. Jesus was approached by a man who had leprosy who, while not asking for healing, did ask to be cleansed.

**“If You are willing, You can make me clean”, the man said.**

Although a leper, this man recognised who Jesus was and he fell down and worshipped Him, begging Jesus to make him clean.

Dr Semmelweis continually underlined the importance of cleanliness in his work as a medical doctor and so does Luke in this Gospel story. In fact, Luke uses three variations of the word ‘clean’ (verses 12 - 14). Religious leaders would have taught that this man under Levitical Law was ‘unclean’ and therefore ‘dead’ to society, yet Jesus sees him very differently.

Jesus showed the man compassion; He touched the man’s skin and made him well again. In fact, as soon as Jesus spoke the words “Be healed” the leprosy instantly disappeared. Jesus told the man to go and show himself to the Priest who would confirm he had been healed as the Law demanded.

**Note:** Consider with the children how this story can help us understand God’s attitude to our actions towards others, but equally important God’s attitude towards humanity and our sin.



Learn it

# "Let us do good to all people"

[Galatians 6: 10]



Explore it

Read Leviticus 13: 1 - 8 and consider what the Old Testament Law taught concerning how people with leprosy should be treated. Reflect on Jesus example and how this challenges our attitudes and actions towards others.



Pray it

**Lord Jesus,**  
Thank You for Your example of care and compassion for people who were often rejected or forgotten by others. Show us through Your word how we can do good to others. Help us as we think of other families and children with less than we have and, by Your grace, help us to be like You in sharing what we have with others.

**Amen.**



Complete it

Encourage the children to complete the worksheet, providing any assistance where required.



Do it

## God still cares for people today!

Just as Jesus showed compassion to the leper, we ought to show that same compassion and care towards others today who need our help. This could include helping families and children through the Presbyterian Children's Society who, for over 150 years, have been supporting children and families in Ireland through difficult times.

It has been suggested that children in families who are experiencing poverty face greater difficulties regarding their health, education and opportunities in life. Whilst the Society cannot impact every family or take every child out of poverty, it can help make a positive difference in the outlook and finances of many Presbyterian children and their families.

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# The **Lifeless** Luke 7: 11 – 17



## Introduce it

This account from Luke's Gospel is one of the three occasions in Jesus ministry where He showed His authority over death. The other two occasions are the raising of Jairus daughter (Luke 8: 40 - 56) and the raising of Lazarus (John 11: 1 - 44).

These are important lessons not just because of the miracles Jesus did, but also because of the truth it teaches about His mission. He came to give new life to dead people. He is 'the giver of life' (Psalm 36: 9) and His death and resurrection guarantees that 'we may also live new lives' (Romans 6: 9).

Switch off your mobile phone before the lesson. Ask the young people 'Any ideas why my mobile phone isn't working?' Guide the discussion and suggest one answer could be that the **battery is dead**. Introduce the story by explaining that just as only the battery gives life to the mobile phone, only Jesus can give life to people who are dead.



## Teach it

Jesus had just healed the Centurion's slave (Luke 7: 1 - 10). Everyone was amazed as He had healed the man by just being present at the Centurion's house. His reputation among the people was growing and, whether the person was a Roman soldier like the Centurion, or a man sick with leprosy (Luke 5), Jesus gave His time to people and healed many. He loved people. People from every walk of life.

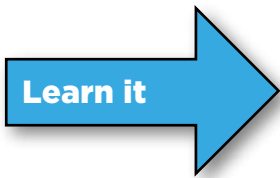
As Jesus approached the gate to a little village called Nain, He witnessed a funeral procession. The young man who had died was the son of a widow. Jesus, seeing her pain and grief, had compassion on her

**“Don't cry”, He said.**

Then something amazing happened. Jesus reached out and touched the coffin. Everyone was still.

**“Young man”, He said. “Get Up!”**

To everyone's surprise, the young man got up and began to talk! Jesus had given him life again. All the people began to praise God, calling Jesus a 'mighty prophet'. His reputation for healing spread throughout the country.



# "Be kind to one another"

[Ephesians 4: 32]



Luke tells us that the 'news of Jesus spread throughout all the land' (v17). What people had witnessed that day in Nain had a ripple effect, spreading everywhere.

Provide the children with some other examples from the Gospels where we read that Jesus reputation grew.



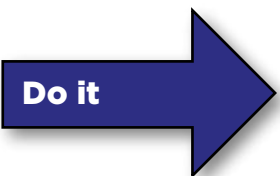
**Lord Jesus,**

We thank You that You know when we are sad. We thank You that You understand when we are afraid. We thank You that even in the dark times, You are always good. Show us Your love when we need it. Help us find our way through life. Grant us Your life giving presence.

**Amen.**



Encourage the children to complete the worksheet, providing any assistance where required.



## God still cares for people today!

Just as Jesus showed compassion to the widow from Nain, we ought to show that same compassion and care towards others today who need our help. This could include helping families and children through the Presbyterian Children's Society who, for over 150 years, have been supporting children and families in Ireland through difficult times.

It has been suggested that children in families who are experiencing poverty face greater difficulties regarding their health, education and opportunities in life. Whilst the Society cannot impact every family or take every child out of poverty, it can help make a positive difference in the outlook and finances of many Presbyterian children and their families.

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# The **Lunchless** Luke 9: 10 – 17



## Introduce it

Besides Jesus resurrection, the feeding of the five thousand is the only other miracle recorded in all four Gospels. For the Gospel writers, this was a significant miracle. As Jesus provides spiritual food for the people, the disciples are confronted with the problem of the people's physical hunger and their inability to meet that need. The miracle that unfolds is a lesson in humility and trust for the disciples and for us. Jesus powerfully illustrates His ability to meet our needs.

Briefly discuss the issue of famine and hunger in many parts of the developing world. Suggest that whilst most people in our country are better off than those in the developing world, people not having enough food is an issue in the UK and Ireland as well. Explain that 'food banks' exist today to help those in need by sharing what others have given. Suggest that just as Jesus shared what was brought to Him to bless many people, so should we.



## Teach it

The disciples returned to Jesus after visiting nearby towns and villages where they were preaching and healing. Despite Jesus desire to pass through a town called Bethsaida with His disciples anonymously, the crowds continued to follow Him wherever He went. Jesus welcomed them and taught them about God's kingdom, healing the sick as a sign that God's reign was present with them. The disciples came to Jesus and pleaded that He 'send the crowds away to find food for themselves' in nearby towns and villages.

**But Jesus said, "You feed them".**

The disciples were left stunned. They had very little food and no possibility of feeding such a huge crowd of people. All they had were five loaves and two fish brought by one child in the crowd. Nevertheless, Jesus persisted in saying that they should feed the people. How were they going to do this they thought, as there were around 5000 men together with women and children? Jesus took control of the situation and asked the disciples to arrange the people in groups of around 50. Jesus gave thanks and then offered the disciples food to distribute among the people. Remarkably 'everyone ate and was satisfied'. In fact there was enough food left over to fill 12 baskets! Was Jesus trying to teach the disciples something by having 12 baskets left over?



Learn it

# "My grace is enough; it's all you need"

[Second Corinthians 12: 9]



Explore it

There is a similar miracle to Jesus performed by the Prophet Elisha in the book of Second Kings. Elisha was meeting with some other prophets in Gilgal, but a famine broke out. Food was scarce and, despite the best efforts of his servants, Elisha faced a problem. He trusted God to help however, and so in the end the men not only had enough to eat, but 'they ate and had some left' (Second Kings 4:44).

Reflect on how this relates to God's character. He says He will do more than provide for His people; He will give an abundance. (Psalm 132: 15).



Pray it

### Dear Lord Jesus

Many in the world are hungry - we thank You for our food.  
Many in the world are afraid - we thank You for being with us.  
Many in the world today have no friends - we thank You for our friends.  
For all the good things You give us - Thank You, O Lord.

**Amen**



Complete it

Encourage the children to complete the worksheet, providing any assistance where required.



Do it

## God still cares for people today!

Just as Jesus showed compassion to the hungry crowds by the hillside, we ought to show that same compassion and care towards others today who need our help. This could include helping families and children through the Presbyterian Children's Society who, for over 150 years, have been supporting children and families in Ireland through difficult times.

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# The **Lawyer** Luke 10: 25 - 37



## Introduce it

The parable of the Good Samaritan is probably one of the most famous and well-remembered parables that Jesus taught. It only appears in Luke's Gospel, and in it, Jesus answers the question of the curious and cunning Lawyer, but not in the way he had expected. The Lawyer sought to test Jesus by asking a seemingly obscure question: 'What shall I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus wasn't disturbed by this question. It seemed to Him a reasonable one. He simply referred the man back to the Law, back to the subject in which the Lawyer claimed he was an expert. Jesus and the Lawyer discussed Scripture and soon another question followed 'Who is my neighbour?' and it's around this question that the whole story revolves.

This lesson is an example of a parable. A parable is a story (sometimes using everyday situations or things) which Jesus uses to explain something complicated and deeply spiritual.



## Teach it

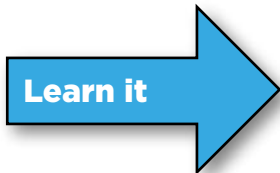
The story is a familiar one. The difficult and dangerous journey from Jerusalem to Jericho (17 miles in total), the unexpected scuffle and the injury of the man as he is beaten, robbed and left for dead. The Priest and the Levite see the man and instead of helping, ignore his need and walk by on the other side of the road. Will anyone come to help this Jewish traveller in distress? A Samaritan man comes along to help. He would have been the last person the people listening to the story would expect to help. The Jews and Samaritans had been long-time enemies. What would he do? - something all of us should do when we know others need our help; he helped to the best of his ability. Jesus explained to the Lawyer that the Samaritan

**“...came to where the man was; and when he saw him, had compassion on him”**

The Samaritan did what he knew was the right thing. He cleaned and bandaged the injured man and put him on his donkey and took him to a place where he would be cared for. He even left enough money to cover the man's expenses and agreed to cover any additional costs when he returned. "Look after him," he said. On concluding His parable, Jesus turned to the Lawyer and asked

**“Which of these three men was a neighbour to the man who'd been injured and robbed?”**

The Lawyer replied 'the one who was kind to the man'. 'Exactly,' Jesus replied... 'Go and show the same care for others'.



# "Love one another as I have loved you"

[John 13:34]



Rev Tim Keller has thoughtfully observed "By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbour."

Reflect on whether you agree with this statement and consider the ways (not just using money) we can be a 'Good Samaritan' to others we find in need.



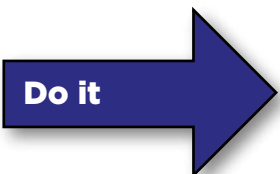
**Lord Jesus,**

Help us reflect the attitude and actions of the Good Samaritan.  
Help us to love without judgement,  
care for others without exclusion,  
and bring Your comfort and Grace to a hurting world.

**Amen.**



Encourage the children to complete the worksheet, providing any assistance where required.



## God still cares for people today!

Just as the Samaritan man showed great compassion to a man in need, we ought to show that same compassion and care towards others today who need our help. This could include helping families and children through the Presbyterian Children's Society who, for over 150 years, have been supporting children and families in Ireland through difficult times.

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