

The Kind Stranger | Lesson Plan

Why is it important to show kindness to others?

Students will understand the importance of compassion and kindness, and they will be able to explain how the actions of the Samaritan in the story illustrate the value of helping others regardless of their background or identity.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a parable is and understand its characteristics.
- Recount the parable of "The Good Samaritan."
- Explain the importance of compassion and kindness.
- Discuss the consequences of prejudice and the value of treating others as we would like to be treated.
- Identify the lesson of the parable.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Parable:** A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Bible.
- **Compassion:** Sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.
- **Kindness:** The quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.
- **Prejudice:** Preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.
- **Neighbor:** A person living near or next to another.
- **The Golden Rule:** Treat others as you would like to be treated.

Educational Standards: CCRA.RL.1, CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2

Academic Subject Areas: Life Lessons, Bible, Judeo-Christian Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Kind Stranger* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Kind Stranger* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what a parable is. It is a simple story used to teach a lesson. Today, students will learn the parable known as "The Kind Stranger," which is also called "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" in the Bible.
2. Ask students if they have heard any parables or Bible stories before and share some titles if they have (e.g., The Prodigal Son, The Mustard Seed, etc.).
3. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: parable, compassion, kindness, prejudice, neighbor, and The Golden Rule.



4. Introduce the term “good Samaritan.” Explain that there is a term that comes from the story that they will hear: good Samaritan. Explain that this term is used to describe someone who helps others without any kind of benefit to themselves personally.
5. Ask students to think about a time when they helped someone or were helped by someone. Discuss how it felt and why it was important.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: The Kind Stranger* to the students.
2. Pause at opportune moments to ensure understanding of the following concepts:
 - Who are the main characters in the parable?
 - What problem does the traveler encounter?
 - How do the different people respond to the traveler's need for help?
 - What does the Samaritan do that is different from the others?
3. After the story, discuss the moral of the parable:
 - What is a parable?
 - What lessons can we learn from "The Kind Stranger"?
 - What does it mean to be a “good Samaritan”?
 - Why is it important to show kindness and compassion to everyone, even those who are different from us?

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help students understand the sequence of events in "The Kind Stranger."
2. Hand out the “Otto’s Tales: The Kind Stranger Worksheet” to each student.
3. Instruct students to look at the pictures on the worksheet and number the scenes in order from first to last.
4. After completing the worksheet, discuss the sequence of events as a class.
5. Ask students to explain why the Samaritan's actions were important and what they can learn from it.
6. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
 - Correctly sequence the parable of "The Kind Stranger."
 - Explain the lesson of the parable.
 - Discuss the importance of compassion and kindness.
7. Close with an encouraging call to action. Highlight the lesson from “The Kind Stranger,” focusing on the importance of compassion and helping others. Explain how being kind and treating others as we would like to be treated can positively impact their lives and the community. Challenge students to think of one way they can show kindness today and share their ideas with the class.

Extension Activities:

Send students home with a kindness challenge card. On the card, they tick off a list of kind acts they can accomplish over the week, such as helping a neighbor or sharing with a sibling. Invite them to share their experiences in the next class.

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)

After reading the story, distribute the Story Sequence Chart worksheet and allow students to complete it on their own. Conclude with a discussion about the importance of kindness and the positive outcomes that can result from it.