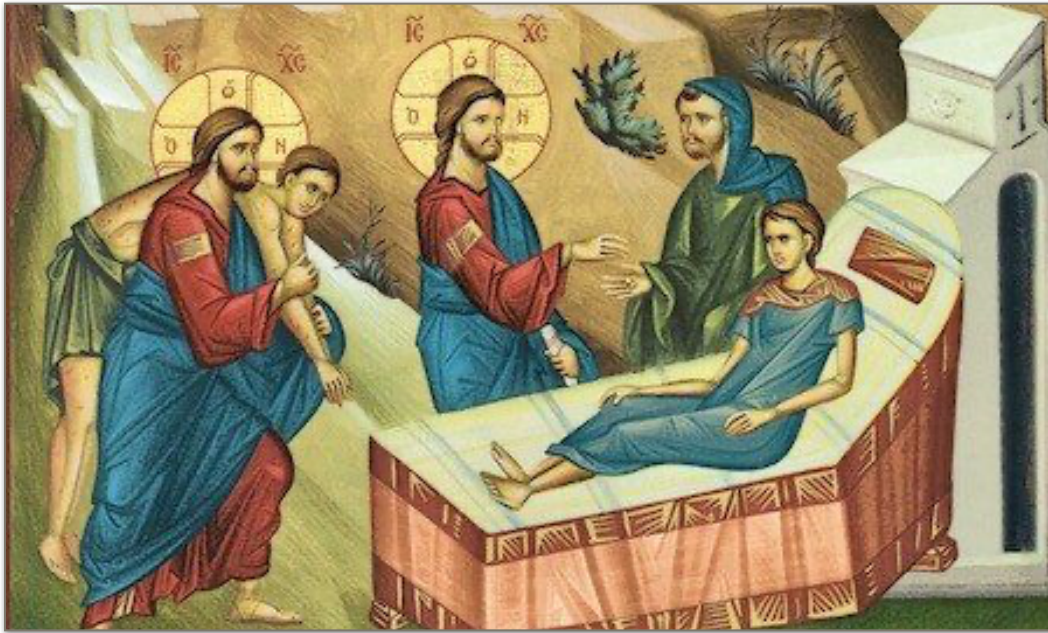


THE GOOD SAMARITAN

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



Icon from: [Orthodox Christianity Then and Now](#)

THE 70 APOSTLES ARE SENT OUT

Luke 10:1-12

As Christ now turns His journey towards Jerusalem, He sends forth additional apostles to help teach people about the Kingdom of God. We refer to these apostles as “the 70” and they are different people than the 12 apostles. Christ sent out the 70 in groups of two for a couple of reasons: 1) They could encourage and support one another. 2) At that time, you verified facts by having at least

1

GOAL

Who is our neighbor and how should we take care of them?

2

AT CHURCH

Gospel reading
Triodion: in the first week of the fast

3

AT HOME

We care for those who are sick, injured, with ailments, or struggling with something.



Apostle:
a person who is *sent out* to teach others about Christ



Samaritan:
a person from the region of Samaria



Levites:
servants of the Temple
(assisted in the Temple but were not priests)

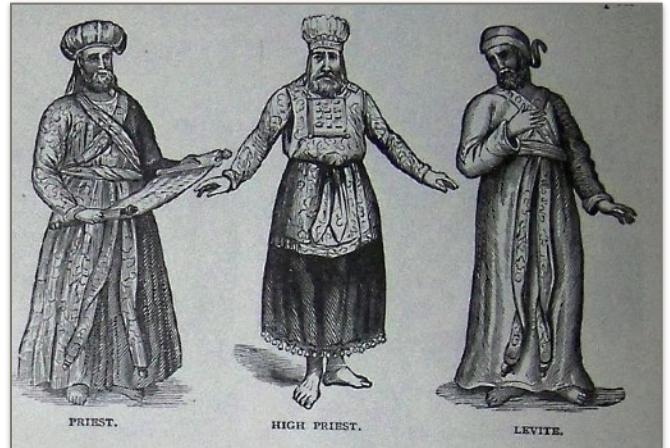
two witnesses. (Deut. 19:15) These apostles, just like the 12, also healed and taught the people about Christ. They stayed where they were invited and were fed by those who housed them.

PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37

The parable of the Good Samaritan is told to a lawyer after he asks Jesus to define, “neighbor” to him. The Law (in Lev. 19:18) called for everyone to love their **neighbor**, which translates from Greek to “one beside a person.” Our neighbor is any person standing beside us - whether we know them well or not; whether we like them or not - and we are called to love them as much as ourselves.

Let’s think about this a little more. The parable of the Good Samaritan tells us that two people walk by a man so wounded by robbers, he may very well die without help. Neither of these two men did anything to ensure that the injured man would even have a chance to survive, let alone comfort him in anyway. How would you feel if you were unconscious after a car accident and people pretended you were not there and kept on



driving? Is there a time in your life when you wished someone recognized you needed help, but didn’t? Keep this in mind about your siblings, friends at church, and classmates at school.

The parable continues with a third man traveling along this road. Will he stop? He actually does! (Do you have someone in your life who you know will always stop to help you? Go home and give them a big hug and thank you!)

The thing is though that he’s a Samaritan and it is well known that the Jews and Samaritans do not like each other...but this Samaritan stops anyway. He pours wine (a disinfectant) and oil (an ointment to keep out infection) and places bandages on the wounded man’s cuts.

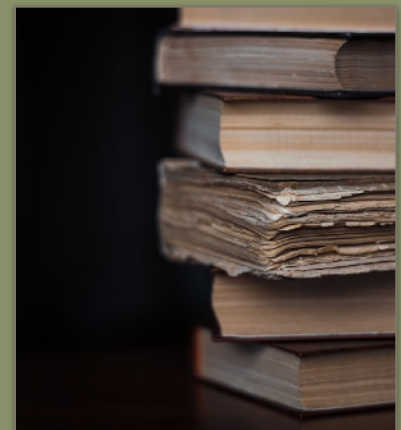
EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Parables by Archbishop Dmitri, pgs 117-122

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 209-223

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 108-122

Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian by Saint Paisios of Mount Athos



The Samaritan doesn't just do as little as possible and then go along his way, hoping someone else will take the burden of this situation from him. No, he lifts the man off the ground. Do you think this is going to be an easy task when the grown adult cannot help to lift himself off the ground in any way? Then the Samaritan places the wounded man on his animal and travels to the nearest inn possible, which is likely miles from there. This entire situation is going to mess up any plans the Samaritan had for the day. It's not easy in any way, but he lovingly cares for this man as if he were his own father, brother, or son.

The Samaritan continues his generosity as he pays the innkeeper to care for this injured man, whom he doesn't know, with money from his own pocket. Luke tells us that the Samaritan paid the innkeeper two denarii. Fr. Lawrence Farley explains to us that this amount of money is equal to two days worth of work for a laborer and was enough money for the injured man to stay at the inn for three weeks! And if one did not think this was generous enough, the Samaritan basically wrote a blank check (or told the innkeeper to fill in the dollar amount to send to himself via Venmo) for whatever amount past the two denarii he spent on this wounded man! This is the level of care Christ calls us to do for our neighbor - with *all* of our effort and ability, as if this person in need was the most cherished person in our life!

Sometimes it's very easy to help another person out, especially when it's something we enjoy doing or it's easy to see that they need help, such as: bringing soup to mom or dad when they don't feel well, offering to run to the store for medicine after getting our driver's license, or helping grandma move something heavy.

Other times, it's not easy at all to help someone in the way that they need help. We might feel overwhelmed, not sure what to do, or feel like we

don't have the time, ability, or knowledge to help them. But there are times when not helping someone could be very dangerous for them and it's important for us to do the best we can in the situation. What might be a situation when you know you need to help someone but it probably won't be easy? How can you check on someone in your family or a friend when you think they are depressed or they start acting differently? Is it important to hang out with people who will encourage and support you to grow closer to God? Why?

ICON: GOOD SAMARITAN

If you have time, review the icon of the Good Samaritan with the kids.

SING:

Middle School - Save O Lord Thy People

High School - More Honorable Than the Cherubim

TRIODION: MONDAY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE FAST

The Great Canon of Repentance calls the penitent to identify himself with the unfortunate traveler:

I am the man who fell among thieves, even my own thoughts; they have covered all my body with wounds, and I lie beaten and bruised. But come to me, O Christ my Savior, and heal me.

Archbishop Dmitri
"The Parables"

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

I *t is true that, wherever Father Arsenios went and sick people were brought to him for prayers to be read over them, he never asked whether they were Christian or Turk, but only what they were suffering from so that he could find the appropriate prayer. When he cured the sick, by the Grace of God, Father Arsenios helped the Turks understand the enormous value of our Orthodox faith and to revere it.*

Saint Paisios

Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian

How do our children learn to care for their neighbor? These lessons start very young as they watch us caring for one another - within our home, parish family, and for each person brought into our lives.

They grow up learning how to care for others each time they see us tend to our neighbor (or experience for themselves): bringing food to someone at church, passing an unused winter coat through our car window to a homeless person on the corner, taking in a relative with a chronic or degenerative medical problem, visiting someone who is sick in the hospital, “simply” listening to someone who needs to talk about their problem or being a shoulder to cry on.

Additionally, it is important for us to check-in on the people around us when we notice they are not acting like themselves. Sometimes people cannot always verbalize that they need help.

Don't forget! Make sure you talk to your kids about [internet safety](#) and be familiar with where they spend their time online. We want them to seek help for themselves or others when they encounter problems online, as well as in person.

HOME ACTIVITY #14

YouTube: Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian - [Option 1](#); [Option 2](#); [Option 3](#)

Talk with your kids: What are some ways you can be supportive of each other when you've had a rough day or are stressed? What prayers can we say for one another? Do you have a story you can share with your kids about a time you watched your parents (their grandparents) help someone in need or a time you helped someone that stands out to you?

