

BreakThru

From Catechism to Christ

EVERYDAY SAMARITAN: HELP

LEARNING EVENT MAKE-UP

A WORD ABOUT THE EVERYDAY SAMARITAN SERIES

For this and the next four Learning Events, we will be going through a series called Every Day Samaritan for Early Adolescents, which is a curriculum of Peer Ministry Leadership led by Lyle Griner. The Learning Events themselves are very interactive, involving one-on-one and small group interaction and practice of skills, and it is a challenge to get the full experience through a make-up assignment like this. I encourage you to make an effort to be at the actual Learning Events throughout this series to get the full impact of this wonderful training and learning opportunity.

HEAD - I TALKED TO HIM ONCE

Read **Luke 5:17-26** out loud together with your parent, then for each character in the story, write and respond to at least five questions that you would ask that person about their experience.

17 One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. **18** Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; **19** but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. **20** When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." **21** Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" **22** When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? **23** Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? **24** But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the one who was paralyzed—"I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home." **25** Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. **26** Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today."



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For each of the characters listed below, write at least five questions you would ask that person if you were interviewing them about their experience. Then, respond to those questions from the perspective of that character. Consider taking turns having a parent write the questions and the student the responses and then the student writing the questions and the parent writing the responses. Discuss as you go.

Write your questions and answers on a separate sheet of paper and attach them to this assignment.

Ask questions that help that character tell the story. Especially focus on using questions that begin with what and how. Why questions are also okay, but be careful with these. Why is often used to put people into defensive positions. Accusing tones of voice used with why questions can quickly make people feel uneasy.

You can also use the examples below to get you started:

- How did you feel when...
- How do you feel now...
- How did you know...
- How did you hear about...

- What did you hope would...
- What do you hope will happen now...
- What were you thinking when...
- What was it that motivated you to...

- Why did you...
- Why do you think...
- Why are people...
- Why will you...

When responding to your questions, realistically imagine how the person may have answered. Imagine the emotions and thoughts of the character.

CHARACTER 1: THE PARALYTIC – Paralyzed, lowered on his bed, told his sins were forgiven, took up his bed and went home, glorifying God

CHARACTER 2: ONE OF THE PHARISEES – Suspicious, questions Jesus' ability to forgive sins, bothered by the miracle.

Pharisees were one of the main Jewish religious groups. High in character, they worked hard to protect their beliefs. Being faithful to God meant being righteous, which was achieved by strictly following Jewish law. Pharisees showed themselves bitter and persistent enemies of Jesus. They could not bear his doctrines, and some sought to destroy his influence among the people. Jesus continually taught that faith was not determined by law, but was a gift of God, to which people respond with acts of love.

CHARACTER 3: ONE OF THE CARRIERS OF THE BED – Helps lower the paralytic through the roof in hopes of healing. This person must have watched, looking down from the hole in the roof.

CHARACTER 4: JESUS – Teaches, forgives sins, answers Pharisees, heals the paralytic

HAND – STOP – DROP - SHOP

Imagine (or even try) keeping a balloon in the air. As you are doing that, additional balloons are added. Soon you have two balloons to keep from hitting the ground. Then three. Then four. Then five. Then six. Eventually, balloons are being dropped. Consider trying this together with a parent if you have some balloons, then discuss and respond to the questions below with your parent.

What happens when issues are bigger than you can handle?

What happens when you think you are helping and you drop the ball?

Who cares for caregivers? What do caregivers need?

You have sensed that a friend has experienced hurt. Big hurt or small hurt, they are important. What do you do? **Stop, drop, and shop, of course!** This is a play on stop, drop, and roll which is what we are told to do if our clothes catch on fire. Shopping sounds much more fun; however, it is not the going to the store type of shopping. Stop, Drop and Shop invites participants to be aware of others, to develop an empathetic heart and to take action. Your job as a friend is to help find the innkeepers when needed.

STOP – The Samaritan has to stop. All service begins with seeing.

- Observe! Slow down.
- Get outside of yourself.
- Who do you see? Who is your neighbor?
- Someone you know well? Or, a stranger you see out of the corner of your eye?
- What do you see? What is not right about what you see? Hear? What was said? What was not said?
- Who is being left out? Ignored?
- Stop pretending you don't see or don't care.
- Stop.

What are the stop signs? How can you tell when someone is hurting?

DROP – Check inside yourself.

- What do you sense? What is your gut telling you?
- How is what you are observing making you feel?
- Are you worried? Concerned?
- How might God be pulling or guiding you to a person?
- Be careful of inner voices that say, "It is none of your business."
- Do you feel safe? If not, why?

If another is being left out or experiencing hurt, why is this your concern?

"Why me, God?"

What do you sense inside yourself when a person hurts?

- **Calling:** This is the Christian response to a loving and graceful God. Jesus set the example, caring and welcoming people. We are called to do the same.
- **The tug of the Spirit:** It maybe the tightness of muscles, the feeling of sadness, or a curiosity within. Drop inside yourself and wonder if this may be a calling or tug of the Spirit.

SHOP – Shop for how you can best help. Help the other make a shopping list for helping himself or herself.

- Is this safe? Are there others around?
- Is this a phone call to someone who can help?
- Is there an immediate need for an Innkeeper?
- Is this a time to say, “Let’s talk in person,” rather than risk misunderstanding a text message?
- Are you fully listening? Do you understand?
- Does the person have options? Ask, “What are your options?”
- What do you want to do? Remember, no should-upons.
- Would you like me to get...
- What will happen if you don’t do anything?
- Who else can we talk to? Who do you know who might help?

What can you do?

- **Hurt needs hearing:** Hurt also needs options. No need to stay stuck. Take time to shop for something helpful. No stores are involved here. Shopping refers to exploring options. Brainstorm a shopping option list. What will help the hurt?
- **Innkeepers:** It also includes finding resource people; your school counselor, your pastor, your youth minister, the police; someone else. Who do you know? Your grandmother!
- **When you don’t know what to do:** Who can you ask? Who supports you? Is it time to pray about it?
 - When you observe a friend who is hurting, it is okay to stop and check it out.
 - I heard you say something about... can I ask about that?
 - I noticed you were looking kind of...
 - Are you okay? ...If you weren’t, would you come and talk to me?
 - You seem a little down today. Want to go for a walk?
 - I sense you may be feeling...

READ THIS: SHOPPING OPTIONS

Innkeepers: In the Good Samaritan story, the Samaritan does not do it all or have a need to be it all for the hurt person. The Samaritan goes to an Innkeeper.

Bed Carriers: In the story of the healing of the paralytic, people carried the bed. They took the man for help. In this case, they took him to Jesus. Not a bad place to start!

Who are your Innkeepers? If you are carrying the bed, to whom are you directing people? Who can you carry or guide someone to for help?

Who do you go to when the issues involve bigger stuff than you? (Ex. Harming self? Harming another? Being harmed?)

- **Brainstorm a list of people in your area:** Consider putting a card together with the appropriate hotline and help numbers for your area.
 - PML mentors
 - School counselor
 - Pastor/priest/youth minister
 - Teacher
 - Parent
 - Grandparent
 - High School Peer Minister
 - Youth Ministry group time with PML's
 - 911
 - 211 www.211us.org United Way National Hotlines
 - What local hotlines and resources can you add?

- **Who are the trusted, knowledgeable adults to whom you can turn?:** Trust is important, but don't confuse this with like and cool. Maybe you don't personally like the school counselor or your pastor, or they may not fall into the cool categories, but they may be able to help. Likewise, knowledgeable means they have some wisdom and training. Not every adult knows what to do.

HEART - I AM CONCERNED

Spend some time talking with your parents, and have each person identify a recently observed situation that causes concern. This is not a gossip session, so keep the person you are concerned about anonymous. Choose two concerns and walk through the **STOP—DROP—SHOP** format to discuss and outline in the space below how you could help that person for whom you are concerned. If you are having trouble coming up with your own concerns, you could choose them from the sample list below:

1. "I can't take my family any more. I wish I could leave."
2. "My cousin died in a swimming accident this weekend."
3. "It's okay. My parents don't mind if I have a drink after school. They have so much, they never miss any."
4. "I don't get along well with other girls."
5. "I keep getting mean texts from people I don't even know."
6. "I went into the bathroom at my school and there was a girl sitting against the wall crying. It scared me. I was not sure what to do. I left."
7. "There is a guy on my team. He tries hard but just doesn't fit in. Everyone keeps picking on him. I feel sorry for him sometimes."
8. "There is this kid in my science class. No one talks to him. I try to, but he doesn't say much."
9. "She just keeps throwing herself at guys. I don't know what her deal is, but I bet she'll be pregnant if she isn't already. I wish she could relax a bit."
10. "He's really funny, but it gets him in trouble a lot. He's never serious about anything."
11. "He texted me the other day. Something about wanting to get away from his parents."
12. "She always says she's going to kill herself. I think she just says it to get attention and get a rise out of everybody."
13. "He has been so down lately. His parents are splitting up. I think they are getting a divorce."
14. "He smokes all the time now. He keeps offering one to me and then makes fun of me because I won't join him."
15. "He used to be a really good friend, but now he hangs with a whole different group. They're always in trouble. He won't even say hi anymore."
16. "She goes to the bathroom all the time to be sick. I think she may have an eating disorder or something."
17. "She tries to hide the cuts she makes by wearing long sleeves, but every once in a while they slip up. I can see the cuts."
18. "I hope he's okay. He had a black eye and a cut on his face. He told me he fell, but I think it might be his dad. He drinks a bit and gets kind of angry."
19. "She's really down. She thought Greg liked her, but I think he dumped her."
20. "He makes fun of me for going to church. He calls me ignorant and stupid and calls church stuff a bunch of c___."

CONCERN #1:

Stop: Describe, or pick from the list, a situation that concerns you, something you have observed. Maybe it has been in the back of your mind.

Drop: Check out your concern. What does your instinct tell you? What concerns you most? What feelings are you experiencing? What is your heart telling you? Do you sense God tugging you towards a person for whom you have concern? Can you describe this to others? Ask each other.

Shop: Brainstorm possible actions with each other. Have you talked to the person about your concern? Listened? Are there caring adults that need to be involved? Who may be the Innkeepers who can help? How would you connect them with these helpers? What prayer might you say?

CONCERN #2:

Stop: Describe, or pick from the list, a situation that concerns you, something you have observed. Maybe it has been in the back of your mind.

Drop: Check out your concern. What does your instinct tell you? What concerns you most? What feelings are you experiencing? What is your heart telling you? Do you sense God tugging you towards a person for whom you have concern? Can you describe this to others? Ask each other.

Shop: Brainstorm possible actions with each other. Have you talked to the person about your concern? Listened? Are there caring adults that need to be involved? Who may be the Innkeepers who can help? How would you connect them with these helpers? What prayer might you say?