

## Getting Started

### Introductions

*Set up circle and pocket chart.*

*Introduce Circlekeepers (names and church affiliation), class (state its purpose), and theme of current story series; review last week's story.*

*ID groups; pass out bags with materials; participants make nametags.*

### Opening: The Story

*Light candle, sing "Listen to the Word," tell story, pray.*

### Attendance

*Take attendance, greet participants, distribute bonus items as appropriate: folders and brochures to first-timers, certificate...four times (might have some), book...six times.*

### Explain the Talking Piece

**We'll do different activities to learn this story; sometimes we'll use a talking piece.**

**The talking piece creates a space in which everyone can speak and listen in peace.**

**Each person in the circle gets a chance to speak without being interrupted, and to listen without needing to respond.**

**When we are using a talking piece, here is how it works:**

- 1. The talking piece is passed around the circle from person to person.**
- 2. Only the person holding the talking piece may speak.**
- 3. It is always okay to pass; just say, "I pass."**

### Check-In Round

**Today our talking piece is: **bandage****

**We will use it for a check-in round; when the talking piece comes to you please...**

- 1. Say your name**
- 2. How familiar you are with this story (new, heard before, could tell)**
- 3. A word or more about how you are feeling today**

**I'll go first...**

### Agreements Round

**These are the four agreements for our time together:**

- 1. Honor the talking piece—when it is being used, speak only when you are holding it**
- 2. Speak from the heart—tell your truth as you are comfortable to share**
- 3. Listen from the heart—be attentive, with a positive spirit; avoid side conversations, comments or questions.**
- 4. Protect personal privacy—Tell about God, Jesus, this class and the story we learn, but keep confidential personal information that is shared**

**Now let us see if we can all accept these agreements: I accept these agreements...**

## Engaging the Story

### ☐ Repeat-After-Me

### ☐ Word I Heard

Listen again to the story of **The Good Samaritan**

This time close your eyes or focus on the candle.

As you listen, notice if any word or phrase gets your attention... *Read or tell story*

Before you open your eyes, think of a word or phrase from the story that got your attention, or another word or phrase that comes to mind...

*Ring chime...* Now open your eyes.

For this round, name a word or phrase that you heard in the story, or that came to mind in response to hearing the story.

### ☐ Storyboard

It's easier to learn a story if you break it down into episodes or parts.

Just like pre-production work in movie-making, we are going to create storyboards for this story to help us learn it.

This story has **four** parts, so divide your paper into **four** sections.

I'll tell the story one part at a time. Close your eyes or focus on the candle and see what is happening in your mind's eye as I tell the story.

Now open your eyes, and in the first section of your paper draw a picture of what you saw as you listened to the first part of the story.

*Repeat for other parts.*

### ☐ Tell to a Partner

*Instruct participants to pair up with a partner and take turns telling the story to their partner using their storyboard to help remember (no peeking at other side).*

*When both have told what they remember of the story, they check the script and evaluate what they remembered, left out, and/or added in extra.*

*Optional: Partners team up in groups of 4 (or so); everyone tell the story once; clap for each telling. Since it's such a short story, you might try this.*

### ☐ The Last Word

Now we'll do an activity where you get to have the last word. I'll tell the first part of each line of the story and you fill in the last word.

*Tell the story with pauses for key words. Participants "fill in the blank" (say the word) created by your pause. Use a gesture to indicate when they are to chime in telling the story. In keeping with oral language, a "word" is not necessarily an individual word as we conceive it in written language; it could be a phrase.*

### ☐ I Wonder

Biblical stories invite us to wonder about things.

Because they are such old stories about people who lived in a very different culture, we don't understand some things in the stories.

Some of us haven't heard many biblical stories, and have lots of questions.

Even if we have heard lots of biblical stories, they still inspire wondering.

**What questions do you have of this story?**

**What does it make you wonder about?**

*Print responses on lined 4x6 index cards.*

*Pass each card around to the person who had the wondering to place in the circle.*

*Do a second round for people to address the question or wondering of their choice.*

☐ **About the Story**

*Read topics on About the Story handout—go around circle and each woman can read a paragraph; use talking piece so if someone doesn't want to read they can opt out easily. Show illustration on pages 22-23 of Life in Bible Times.*

☐ **Connections Rounds**

*Each person has an opportunity to respond to possible connections between the story and their life experience.*

*Connection topics are named by the Circlekeeper.*

- **In this story, the Samaritan bandages and takes care of someone who has been hurt. So the story invites us to think about a time we put bandages on someone, or cared for someone hurt; OR a time someone did that for us.**
- **In this story, caring came from an unexpected direction. Have you ever cared for someone who was very different from you, maybe even an “enemy”?**
- **Tell about any other connection you made with this story.**

☐ **My Story in God's Story**

*After Connections round, tell or read the story again.*

*Participants are encouraged to listen to the story keeping in mind the connections they have spoken aloud or have made in silence, allowing the story to hold their life experience in a sacred space.*

## **Winding Up**

### **Prayer Cards**

### **Collection**

*Gather all the items in the Circle and those passed out which need to be returned.*

### **Closing**

*Standing in the Circle, conclude with prayer and/or song such as “Go Now in Peace.”*