



Are We There Yet?

THEME: Road Trips

BIBLE STORY: The Parable of the Good Samaritan
(Luke 10:25-37)

MATERIALS NEEDED

<p>OPENING GAME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copies of the travel BINGO cards¹, one or more cards per person• Markers, one per person	<p>CRAFT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tables for the families to sit at (covered with newspaper or plastic)• Small tins, one per person• Tacky glue, one bottle per family• Yarn or paracord 550, about 14 inches per person• Scissors, one pair per family• Sheets of felt (9 x 12 inches), one sheet per family• Copies of the road trip game graphic on card stock, one per person• Option A<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ ¼-inch pom poms, five each of two colors (ten total) per person• Option B<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Opaque craft plastic sheets, one or more per person■ Alcohol-based permanent markers, a small assortment for each family■ 1-inch diameter hole punch, one or more for entire group to share■ A heat source to shrink the plastic (oven, heat gun, hair dryer, etc.)
<p>LESSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large tongue depressors, six• Copies of the six characters on card stock, one copy of each²• Tacky glue, one bottle• Scissors	
<p>GAMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chalk or masking tape to mark a playing area	

¹ Click the link to go to the first page of the BINGO cards. Please note that there are ten different combinations, and you will want to use all ten. So, if you have fifty participants, make five copies of the ten cards to have a good variety of playing cards.

² Pages 15-20

90-MINUTE SESSION OUTLINE

- [Introduction and Opening Game](#) (10 minutes)
- [Craft Activity](#) (30 minutes)
- [Games](#) (20 minutes)
- [Devotional Thought](#) (10 minutes)
- [Family Discussion](#) (15 minutes)
- [Closing Prayer and Dismissal](#) (5 minutes)

Introduction and Opening Game

(10 MINUTES)

Welcome to family fun night! We are so glad you're here. Our goals are to help your family have fun together and to learn about God's love and his word.

Summer is a time when a lot of people take vacations. Some people go to the beach. Some go hiking in the mountains. Some people drive to another city to visit family. Other people really like to go camping. Turn and share with your family about your favorite trip of all time, or share about a trip you would like to take. Give time for family members to share with each other.

Tonight we are going to learn about a very famous Bible story. We call it *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*. A parable is a short story that teaches us a spiritual or moral principle. We're going to read it in just a minute.

The two main characters in this story were on a road trip. Back in Bible times there were no cars or airplanes. People mostly walked from one town to the next on their trips. Let's hear the story now.

Read Luke 8:4-15.

I'm so glad that the last person, the Samaritan, showed kindness to the man who was beaten up, aren't you? Well, as we talked about earlier, these people were on a journey. I imagine that many of you here have been on journeys and visited some other states. Right now, we're going to play a game about that.

Family Game: State BINGO

Object: To be the first to achieve BINGO (five states in a row: across, down, or diagonally)

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Setup: Distribute a playing card and a marker to each player.

Instructions: When you give the GO signal, players will ask others about a state on their card. For example, "Have you ever visited Mississippi?" If the other person answers, "Yes," then the player may color in the outline of Mississippi on their playing card. No player may color in more than two states per conversation. In other words, after getting two states from one person, they must move on to talk with another person. No player may ask more than one question without answering a question from the person with whom they are speaking. In other words, players must take turns asking their partner about states they have visited. When a player has five squares in a row colored in, they will yell, "BINGO!" The first player with BINGO is the winner. Play several rounds as time allows.

Craft Activity

(30 MINUTES)

Sand Paintings

Preparation: Distribute the materials to each family to make a travel tic-tac-toe game set.

Instructions:

1. Flip the road trip game graphic over so the image is facing down and place it on top of the felt. Use the road trip graphic as a template to cut out a piece of felt the same size as the graphic.
2. Glue the graphic on the inside of the lid.
3. Glue the felt to the bottom of the inside.
4. Cut four lengths of yard in a contrasting color to the felt, and glue it inside the bottom of the container to form a tic-tac-toe board.



NOTE: You may choose to distribute ten pom-poms to each person (five of one color and five of a different color) instead of completing the remaining steps.

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5. Punch ten 1-inch circles of shrink plastic.
6. Decorate five of the circles with one pattern or shape, and decorate the other five with a different color, pattern, or shape.
7. An adult can use the heat gun to shrink the circles to make game pieces.

Games

(20 MINUTES)

Where Am I?

Object: To guess the place where someone in your family is visiting with ten or fewer yes-or-no questions.

Setup: Each family seated together around a table or in a circle.

Instructions: Each family will choose one person to go first. This person will think of a place they have been or would like to visit. The place could be a city, a state, a country, or a specific attraction (e.g., Disneyland). After settling on a location, the other family members will ask yes-or-no questions trying to guess where the person is. For example, "Are you in a city?" "Is the city more than 100 miles away?" The goal is to guess the location with ten questions or fewer. Repeat the game until each person has had a chance to choose a location.

North, South, and Central America

Object: To be the last one tagged

Setup:

- Designate a large, rectangular playing area (about the size of a gym) using cones, tape, or other boundary-marking materials.
- Divide the playing area in half with a center line.
- All players will stand on one of the end lines.
- Choose one player to be IT.

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Instructions: Explain that the end line on which the players are all standing is called South America. The middle line is called Central America, and the opposite end line is called North America. IT will stand at least one half of the length of the playing area away from everyone else and will then say either Central America, South America, or North America.

If IT says Central America, everyone runs to that line while IT tries to tag them. Anyone who is tagged becomes a helper to IT. If IT says North America, everyone runs to that line while trying not to be tagged.

If IT says, South America, then anyone who moves off the line becomes one of IT's helpers (since they were already standing on South America when it was called).

Play continues until there is only one person left who has not been tagged or caught moving from the line that was called.

Devotional Thought

(10 MINUTES)

In advance, cut out the figures on pages 15-20 and glue each one on to a tongue depressor in order to create a stick puppet for the retelling of the story.

During the summertime, lots of families like to go on road trips. Today's story features four people on a trip traveling from one city to another. Things went very badly for the first one. In fact, he was beaten up and robbed! I wonder if your family has ever had any mis-adventures while on a trip. Why don't you talk together about your worst family trip ever? What went wrong?

Allow each family to talk amongst themselves.

Sometimes when we look back on the bad things that happened on a trip, they are funny. Sometimes they aren't. The man in today's story definitely didn't find what happened to be funny. I'm going to set the scene for our story by reading the verses from the Bible just before the story begins.

Read Luke 10:25–30a.

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So, what did the man say were the two most important commandments? Let the group respond and tell you that the commandments are to love God with everything and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Did Jesus agree with the man? Yes.

What did the man ask? Who is my neighbor?

Jesus answered the man with a story. We're going to hear the story now, and as we listen we will have a few puppeteers who help us act out the story.

Choose six people to hold the six stick puppets:

- Victim
- Priest
- Temple assistant
- Samaritan
- Donkey
- Innkeeper

Read Luke 10:30–37, and help the puppet volunteers to act it out dramatically.

This story is called a parable. A parable is a short story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual truth. Who do you think was a neighbor to the victim? Take responses. Answer: The Samaritan. **How did he demonstrate love for the victim?** Take responses. Answer: He treated his wounds, got him to a place of safety, let him rest in the hotel, and covered his expenses.

Jesus says that the Samaritan was “despised.” That means that he was hated. Back in Jesus’ time, the Jewish people (like Jesus and the man who asked him the question about who his neighbor was) were enemies of the Samaritans. They were from a different place, worshipped God differently, and were a different ethnicity.

Let's take some time to talk about what this story means for us. What do you think Jesus wants us to know or to do after hearing this story? Allow 2-3 minutes for families to discuss this question together.

Here are a few things that stand out to me from this story.

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- 1. Loving your neighbor as yourself means loving everybody—even (and especially) those who may be your enemies or people who are different from you.**
- 2. Part of loving others is being generous toward them. The Samaritan was generous with his time and his money. It took both money and time to provide the care the victim needed.**
- 3. Our love for others demonstrates our love for God. The priest and the Temple assistant were religious leaders. They knew God’s laws, and they had respected positions. Still, the Samaritan demonstrated that he really loved God because he loved his neighbor.**

Here’s what I’d like us to remember from this story. God loves us and wants us to love him and to love others. When God tells us to love our neighbor, he means to love everyone. Loving everyone can be hard and take our time and money, but our love for others shows that we really love God, too.

Let’s pray. Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us what is most important—that we love God and love others. Thank you for showing us who our neighbor is and how we should love them. Would you please help us to love you and to love our neighbors? Amen.

Family Discussion

(15 MINUTES)

Distribute the family discussion guide and give the families time to discuss the questions there together.

Closing Prayer and Dismissal

(5 MINUTES)

Thank everyone for coming. Make any announcements about future family fun nights or other events at your church. Let the families know you love them and want to serve them. If anyone needs prayer, offer to pray for them.

Close the evening in prayer.

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

In today's story, the man on the trip had a very bad experience. He was attacked by bandits! What's the worst travel experience you've ever had?

Read the story together again, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, "Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here." (Luke 10:30-35, NLT)

To Discuss

- How would you summarize the main point of this story in one or two sentences?
- Have you ever been like the injured man—in need of help from someone? Who helped you?
- Why do you think the priest and the Temple assistant did not help the injured man? Do you think these were good reasons?
- When have you been like the priest or the Temple assistant and chosen not to help someone in need?
- What specific things did the Samaritan do to help the man in need?
- Why do you think the Samaritan did the things he did?
- Who are your neighbors that God wants you to love?
- Is there someone you know who has a need? How can you help them?























