



Dangerous Kindness

Resources

A Teaching Resource for Key Stage 2
Based on the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’

²⁶ ‘What is written in the Law?’ he replied. ‘How do you read it?’

²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

²⁸ ‘You have answered correctly,’ Jesus replied. ‘Do this and you will live.’

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. “Look after him,” he said, “and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.”

³⁶ ‘Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’

Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

Clean Heart

Session 1



Confession

Most merciful God,
we own up that we have hurt you and hurt others
through our thoughts, our words and our actions.
We have not loved you with our whole heart
or loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to change for the better
and show us what to become.
May we do justly,
love mercy
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Holy Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Good Samaritan

Session 2

Section 1: The Teacher of the Law's Question

Our Bible story comes from a conversation between Jesus and a Teacher of the Law – who we are told came specifically looking to test Jesus and find him wanting. The Jewish leaders often came to Jesus looking to test him and catch him out. On this occasion, the Teacher of the Law tried to bait Jesus with the question: 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' I wonder what he anticipated would be Jesus' response. I also wonder how you would answer the question: 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?'

As was often the case, Jesus did not answer the question immediately. Instead, Jesus asked a question back. 'What is your interpretation of the Law – what do you think it teaches?' So the man quoted some well-known scriptures and said: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.' Jesus seemed content with this, and commented, 'Do this and you will live'.

Section 2: The Teacher of the Law Tried to Justify Himself

It is a bit embarrassing if you are trying to be clever and out-smart someone or trap them into saying something silly, if they just turn round and bat your question away so simply.

The Teacher of the Law wasn't ready to give up easily. He had come to expose Jesus and have him say something that could be held against him. So he pressed on with a follow up question. 'Who then is my neighbour?' The Teacher of the Law seemed confident that he had loved God, but could he tick the box for 'love my neighbour' and be secure that he was set up for eternity? Jesus replied with a parable (a story that has a hidden meaning). I wonder if you can puzzle out what Jesus was trying to teach his listeners?

Section 3: The Beaten Up Man

Jesus' story went like this:

There was once a man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. These were two important cities and the 17 mile stretch of road between them was notoriously dangerous. None-the-less, there was a regular flow of travellers. Many of the priests lived there with their families and did the journey regularly when they went to serve in the temple in

Jerusalem. The road was twisty and went in and out of rocks that made excellent hiding places for robbers. Our traveler set out, alert for trouble.

This time, he was unlucky. The robbers set upon him, beat him badly, stole his belongings and left him stripped and unconscious on the side the road. No one who found him lying there would know who he was. He was simply a man who was badly in need of rescue. Without someone helping him, he would soon be dead.

Section 4: First Up the Priest

Not long later, there happened to be a Priest travelling down the same road. He had completed his two-week rotation of duty in the temple in Jerusalem, and was now on his way home to his family and servants in Jericho.

One of the jobs this Priest had was to collect and distribute the tithe offerings of food that worshippers brought to the temple. Another task was to offer prayers and to lead worship. Priests had a special privilege that they and their households could eat this tithed food, but only if the priest was ritually clean.

Being ritually clean was a big deal for the Priest. If he became unclean, he and his household would all have to go hungry until he could perform the cleansing rituals again. And this would only be possible in a few weeks' time when he was back in Jerusalem.

Ritual cleanliness mattered to him. And the top way of becoming defiled (or unclean) was to touch a dead body. Another way to become unclean was through contact with a non-Jew. The beaten up man in the road was unconscious and stripped of his clothes, so the poor Priest had no means of identifying him. You can see his predicament... Go and help the beaten up man and he risks then not being able to feed himself or his household until he next returns to Jerusalem and can offer sacrifices and prayers. This would have not only been costly, but also deeply humiliating.

Perhaps the listeners to Jesus' story would have had more sympathy for this Priest than we tend to have today. They would have understood why he chose to ride on and avoid the wounded stranger, taking care to pass by on the other side of the road.

Section 5: Next to Pass is the Levite

The Levite almost certainly knew that the Priest was ahead of him on the road. Levites did not have as many rules to obey as the Priests. This Levite could offer aid and the consequences for him and his household would not be so dire. But perhaps there were other considerations for him. Were the robbers still at hand – would him stopping simply mean that there were two men who would die that day instead of one?

He was a lower social class than the Priest and may well have been walking. Perhaps his attitude was, ‘If the Priest ahead of me did nothing, why should I, a mere Levite, trouble myself’. Perhaps he was pragmatic: on foot it was much harder for him to carry the stranger to safety. Jesus does not tell us why – he simply observes that the Levite crossed the road and carried on by.

Section 6: The Rescuer

Much like we have our Englishman, Irishman, Scotsman jokes today, the ancient world had its patterns for storytelling. After a priest and a Levite, the listeners to this story would now be expecting a normal Jew. Surely this will be the most appropriate and most able person to help the wounded man.

It would have been utterly shocking to them that Jesus now puts a twist into the story. He introduces a much-despised Samaritan. At the time of Jesus there was deep bitterness between Samaritans and Jews. This had been made worse because, not many years before, the Samaritans had defiled the temple during the major Jewish festival of Passover. They had scattered human bones in the temple courts. This made it unclean. The Jews hated them so much that they said daily prayers asking God not to give them eternal life.

Jesus could have told a story about a noble Jew helping a hated Samaritan. This would have been much easier for people to hear. Instead, he picks the people group that everyone loved to hate and places them as the hero of the story.

Stopping to tend to the wounded man was dangerous due to the robbers, but then to place the man on his donkey and venture to the next town was extraordinary. Here he might expect an extremely hostile response from the local inhabitants. It would be like an Indigenous

American Indian riding into Dodge City in 1875 with a badly injured Cowboy on his horse. The Indigenous Indian would be unlikely to escape with his life. But the Samaritan takes it even further and stays the night, tending for the wounded man. The bravery and compassion of this Samaritan is reckless!

Section 7: Who then is Your Neighbour?

Jesus closes his story. I imagine the crowd would be hushed and startled at this plot twist that had made their enemy the hero. Jesus turns to the Teacher of the Law: ‘who then was a neighbour to the man who was robbed?’

The Teacher responds, ‘The one who had mercy on him’. It is almost like he cannot bring himself to speak the word ‘Samaritan’ and thus say the name of his enemy. Instead all he can manage is ‘the one who had mercy’.

Jesus told him. ‘Go and do likewise’.

You can almost hear the question in the mind of the listening crowd at this point: ‘but who is able to love like this?!’ A similar question will be asked a few chapters further on when another person comes to ask Jesus about earning eternal life. And yet again, Jesus will give an answer that is well-nigh impossible to enact. ‘Who then can be saved?’ they ask, mystified. Jesus responds to them: ‘What is impossible with man is possible with God’ (Luke 18:25).

Inheritance Stories 1

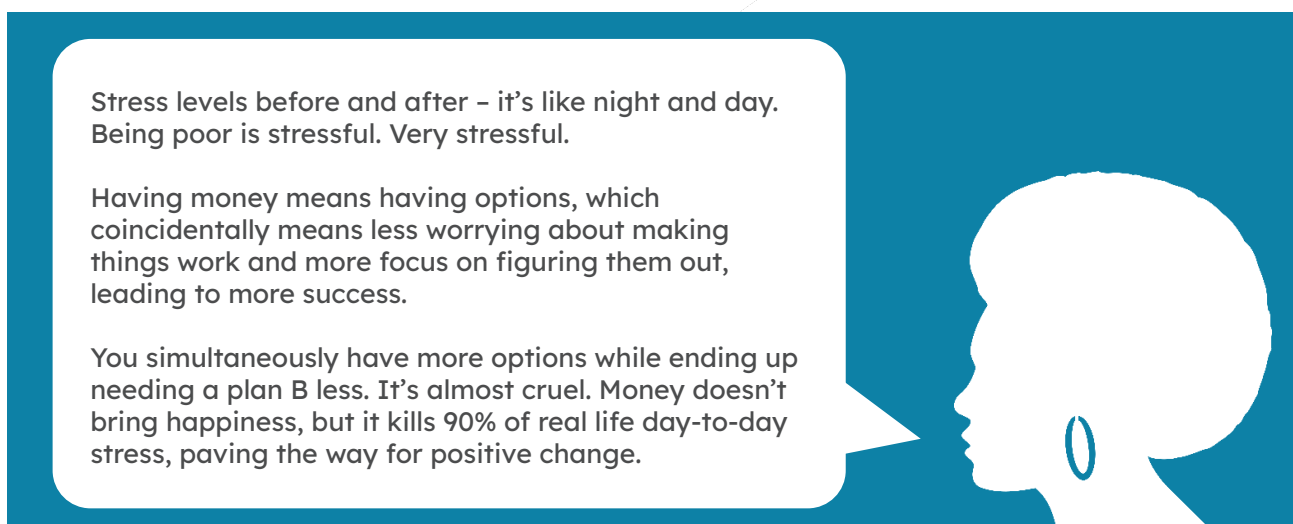
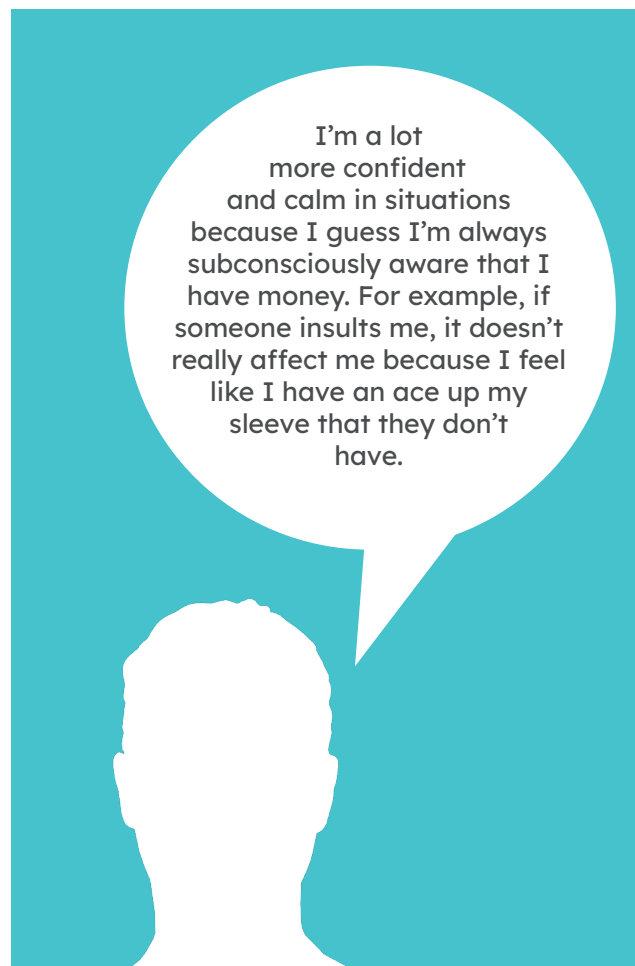
Session 3

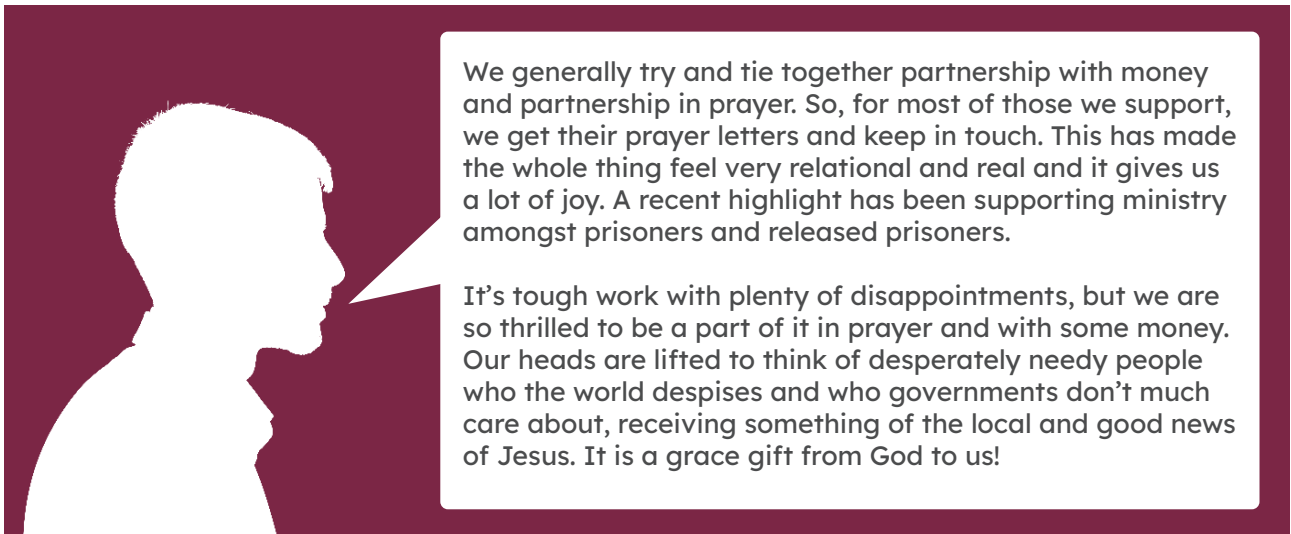
What difference has receiving a large inheritance made to you?

These speech bubbles are all words from real people who unexpectedly inherited money.

Summarised from the Stewardship Website:

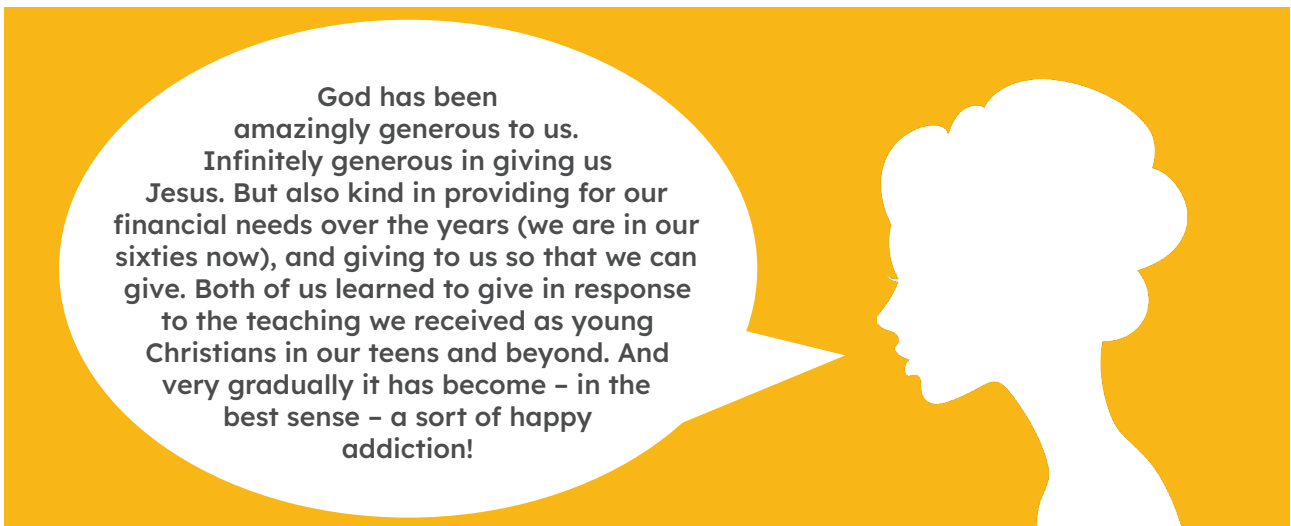
www.stewardship.org.uk/stories/joy-giving-one-generous-couple-tell-their-story



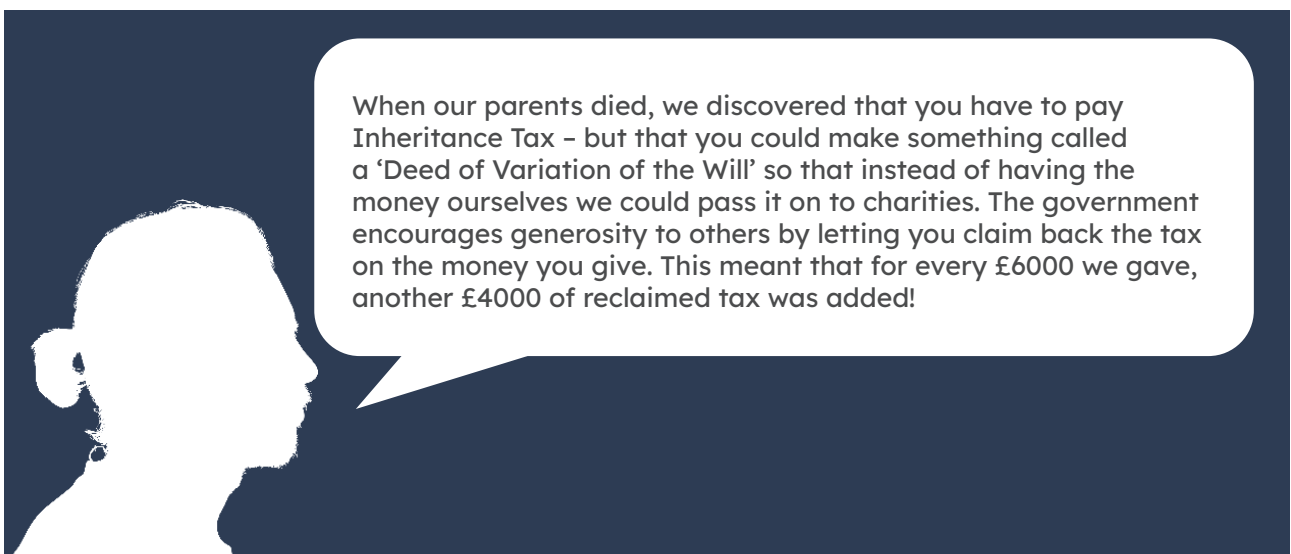


We generally try and tie together partnership with money and partnership in prayer. So, for most of those we support, we get their prayer letters and keep in touch. This has made the whole thing feel very relational and real and it gives us a lot of joy. A recent highlight has been supporting ministry amongst prisoners and released prisoners.

It's tough work with plenty of disappointments, but we are so thrilled to be a part of it in prayer and with some money. Our heads are lifted to think of desperately needy people who the world despises and who governments don't much care about, receiving something of the local and good news of Jesus. It is a grace gift from God to us!



God has been amazingly generous to us. Infinitely generous in giving us Jesus. But also kind in providing for our financial needs over the years (we are in our sixties now), and giving to us so that we can give. Both of us learned to give in response to the teaching we received as young Christians in our teens and beyond. And very gradually it has become - in the best sense - a sort of happy addiction!



When our parents died, we discovered that you have to pay Inheritance Tax - but that you could make something called a 'Deed of Variation of the Will' so that instead of having the money ourselves we could pass it on to charities. The government encourages generosity to others by letting you claim back the tax on the money you give. This meant that for every £6000 we gave, another £4000 of reclaimed tax was added!

Romans 8:15

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father'.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Ephesians 2:4-5

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.

Prayer Space

Speech Bubble Questions



Luke 10:25

On one occasion a Teacher of the Law stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he **asked**, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’



The Teacher of the Law brought his challenge and his questions directly to Jesus.

Ponder

What questions do you have that you want to ask Jesus?

Activity

Write down your questions for Jesus on a speech bubble.

Pray

Ask Jesus to come and answer your question(s).

Prayer Space

Receiving Inheritance



Luke 10:25

On one occasion a Teacher of the Law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he **asked**, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'



Look again at the box of gifts from Session 3 that God gives as an inheritance.

The Bible teaches in John 1:12:

Jesus came into his own world,
but his own did not welcome him.
Yet some people accepted him
and put their faith in him.
So he gave them the right
to be the children of God.

Ponder

What does it mean in the verse above to 'welcome him'?

Activity

If you want to welcome Jesus, take a present and unwrap it. If you would like, you can write a message to Jesus on it.

Pray

Thank Jesus for the gift he gives us to become God's children and to enjoy a rich inheritance from God

Prayer Space

Priest and Levite



Luke 10:31-32

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.



So often we face difficult choices. It can be really hard to do the loving or the right thing. The feeling this gives us can be really hard or weary. The Bible teaches that God offers us new strength every day so that we can love others well.

Ponder

Pick up the rucksack and feel the weight of it. What are you carrying in life that feels heavy or hard?

Activity

Choose a stone from the rucksack and write on it a word or draw a picture to represent something that makes you feel burdened or weary.

Pray

Tell God your thoughts. Take your stone and place it at the foot of the cross as a symbol of choosing to leave that weight with God. Thank him for his forgiveness and fresh strength every day.

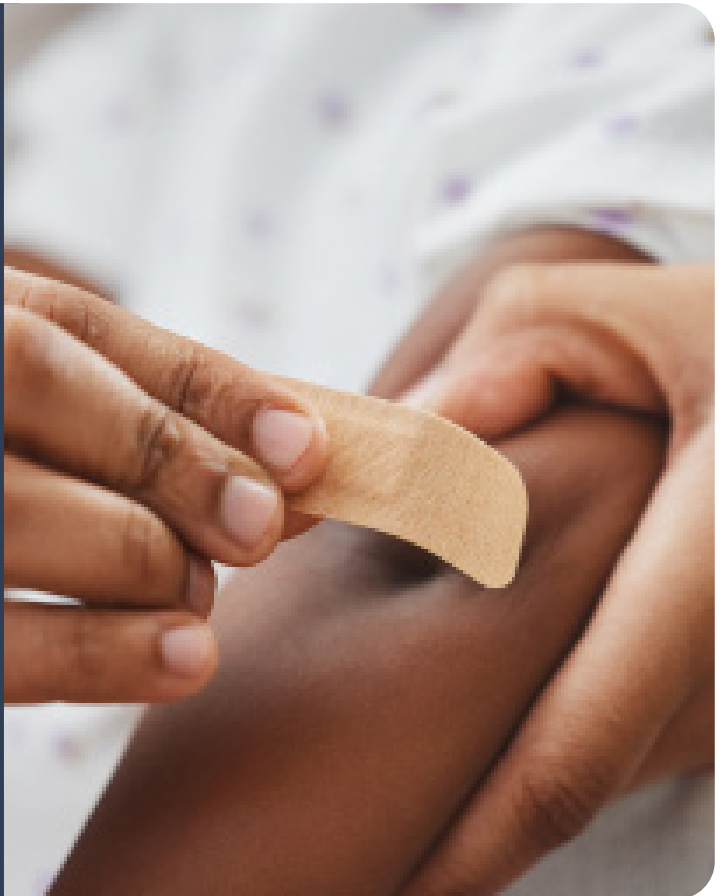
Prayer Space

Good Samaritan (A)



Luke 10:33-34

But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.



Sometimes there are people who are treated as outsiders. People do not seem to give them as much love and care – a bit like how the Samaritan in our story was used to being treated.

Ponder

Who in your community (at school, where you live, in your town, etc.) might feel unloved?

Activity

Choose a pipe cleaner and make a person from it. As you do, think about what it might feel like to be that person.

Pray

Attach your pipe-cleaner person to the poster. If you would like, write a prayer thanking God for them and asking for blessings and goodness for them.

If your person is someone at school, maybe don't name them specifically. Instead you might write something like: 'God, thank you for my school mate. Please bless them and may they know they are loved.'

Prayer Space

Good Samaritan (B)



Luke 10:33-34

But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.



There are so many people in our world who are not loved, or praised, or valued by society and yet they still show goodness to others.

Ponder

Look at the A4 global stories on the wall. They are all different people in different contexts looking to serve others generously.

Activity

Choose a person to pray for. Take a heart post-it note and write a prayer or a blessing on it. Stick it next to their A4 info poster.

Pray

Think about what blessings you would love for God to pour into that person's life. Ask God for this for them.

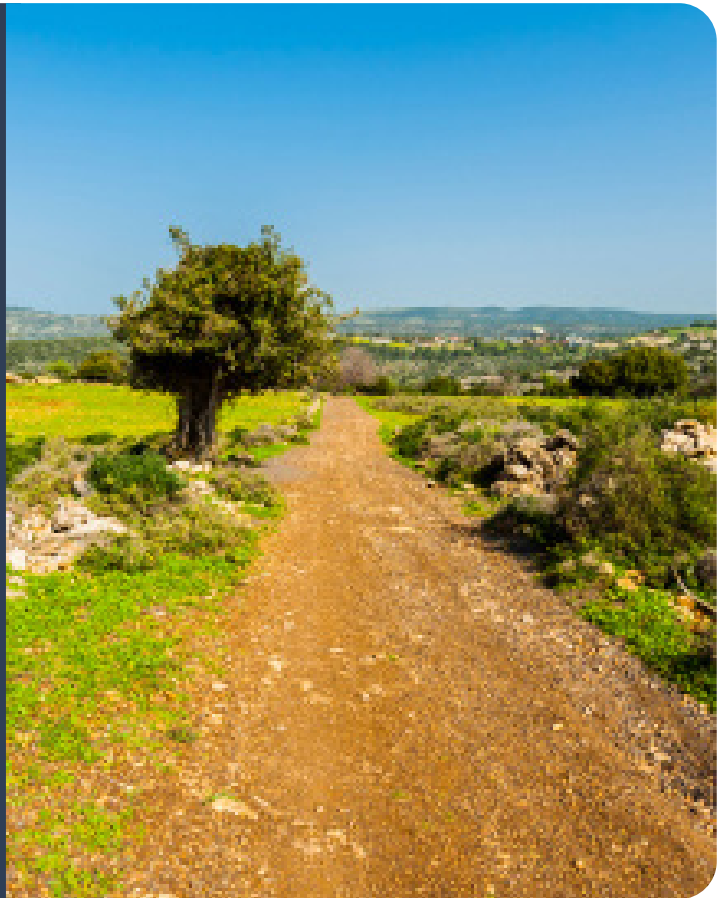
Prayer Space

The Wounded Man



Luke 10:30

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.



We also carry our wounds and pain in life. Things happen that hurt us and that we find hard to forgive. We sometimes cause pain to others around us with our harsh words or unwillingness to put others first.

Ponder

Where are you hurting – from something someone else has said or done?

Activity

Take a cut-out figure and write or draw some of the brokenness you feel or see. As you pray, take a sticking plaster and place it over the brokenness as a symbol of letting Jesus come to you.

Pray

Tell Jesus about what you have written. Imagine yourself lying on the road, helpless. Ask Jesus to come and stop with you, to bind up your wounds and to lift you to new life.

Prayer Space

Footprints in the Sand



The robbers, the wounded man, the Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan would have all left their footprints and hoof prints in the dirt of the road. Their prints would tell later travellers something of the story.

Ponder

What 'footprints' do you leave that tell others how you are doing?

Activity

- Smooth over the damp sand.
- Use your finger to draw a smiley face.
- Think about moments this week when your behaviour or actions left others with a smile on their faces. Perhaps you helped a friend, shared a joke, encouraged your teacher by working hard, or were gentle with your siblings.
- Now draw a sad face.
- Think about the moments this week when you have left others sad or angry because of your actions or words.

Pray

Tell Jesus what you have been thinking about. Smile together at the happy memories. Ask for his forgiveness and healing for the times when you have left a negative impression. Ask for his Holy Spirit to help you in the days ahead to leave an impression on others that blesses them.

Footprints in the Sand

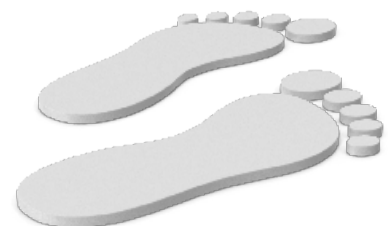
One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed
that during the low periods of my life,
when I was suffering from
anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,
'You promised me Lord,
that if I followed you,
you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during
the most trying periods of my life
there have only been one
set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most,
you have not been there for me?'

The Lord replied,
'The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints,
is when I carried you.'

By Mary Stevenson



Global Story 1

Mr. Subhash Baporia: Feeding People Every Day

Mr. Subhash Baporia is a man from Rourkela, India, who used to run a business. But he saw how people around him were struggling. He decided in 2019 to dedicate his remaining life to helping people who are poor, sick, or hungry. He started a group called Nar Sewa Narayan Seva, which means serving people with love and care. 'I feel God has blessed me, so I must help others,' Mr. Baporia says. This belief inspires everything he does. Every day, his team gives breakfast to 25 people, lunch to 40, and dinner to 50, cooking meals in his home and delivering them across the city.

He also helps in many other ways. He gives away wheelchairs, crutches, and tricycles, pays school fees for children, and provides medicine to the sick. He has given slippers, umbrellas, and blankets to those in need. His team has installed 4,500 water jars, nine drinking water coolers, and 96 cement water pots for stray animals.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he worked even harder. 'We did not let anyone go hungry,' he said. Mr. Baporia's dedication is evident in his statement: 'God has given me everything, and I wanted to give back to society. I will continue serving the needy until my last breath.' This reflects his deep commitment to humanitarian service.

His efforts have inspired many to join the cause, which has grown the impact of his work. Today, over 1,000 people help him, including 21 active volunteers and 100 regular donors. Thanks to his love, faith, and hard work, hundreds of people now have better lives, showing that one person can truly make a difference.

Pray for all those across the world, like Subhash, who quietly serve others with food and kindness.



Global Story 2

James Mwangi: A Banker Who Helps People Grow

James Mwangi is from Kenya, a country in Africa. He wanted to help people, especially those who didn't have banks or money to start small businesses.

When James was young, he didn't grow up with a lot of money. But he worked hard in school, learned about money and business, and studied at university. He wanted to find a way to help people in his country become independent and successful.

James became the boss of Equity Bank, a special bank that doesn't just serve rich people. He made sure that farmers, shopkeepers, and women with small businesses could borrow small amounts of money, called microloans, to grow their businesses.

Thanks to James:

- Farmers can buy seeds and tools.
- Shopkeepers can expand their shops.
- Families can save money and plan for the future.

Because of him, millions of people in Kenya now have hope and a chance to earn money and support their families.

James teaches us that **'even small help can make a big difference'**.

Pray for others like James who have set up micro-loan opportunities across the world. Pray that these loans of small amounts of money would make a big difference to those who receive them.



Global Story 3

Riffat Arif: Education for All

When Riffat Arif, also called Sister Zeph, was a girl in Pakistan. Some teachers were not kind to her because of her Christian faith. At 13, after being beaten in class, she decided to never return to school. Instead of giving up learning, she began teaching her younger sister and friends at home. She even made flyers to invite other girls to join her free classes. By 1997, her little classroom had grown into a real school in her own yard, where everyone learned with love, respect, and kindness, and no one was ever hurt.

In 2013, Sister Zeph started the Zephaniah Women's Education and Empowerment Foundation, or ZWEE for short. Her school has become a shining light of hope for over 500 girls and 100 women!

At ZWEE, children can go to school for free, from nursery all the way to the end of secondary school. They also learn important skills, like using computers, speaking English, sewing, and more. The women who work there even make their own clothing to sell.

Many of Sister Zeph's students have grown up to become nurses, teachers, and other skilled professionals, showing that learning and kindness can truly change lives.

Sister Zeph believes in teaching with compassion and affection, stating, 'When a teacher shows such affection to the children, they feel protected... I want children to be pampered and loved and have a childhood.' Her approach bans beatings or threatening behaviour from teachers that can happen in other schools. Hers is a nurturing learning environment.

She now has influence and in 2015 had a documentary TV programme made about how her students have to battle child marriage (being forced to marry as a child and made to stop school and serve their husband at home) and other pressures from society. The film won awards and is helping to change attitudes towards girls.

Pray for all those across the world, like Sister Zeph, who work hard so that others can have a good education and more chances in life.



Global Story 4

Dr Magdi Yacoub: The Heart Doctor Who Helps Everyone

Magdi Yacoub was born in 1935 in Egypt. His aunt died aged just 22 because she had a problem with her heart that no-one had spotted. This inspired him to study medicine.

Magdi worked very hard and became a heart surgeon, a doctor who can do amazing surgeries to fix broken hearts. Later, he moved to the United Kingdom, where he performed hundreds of life-saving heart operations. He became well-known for finding new ways of fixing the hearts of really poorly people that other doctors would not operate on.

Dr. Yacoub didn't just care about rich people. He believed that every child and adult should get help, no matter how poor they were. He started the Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation in Egypt. There, he built the Aswan Heart Centre, a special hospital where children and adults who couldn't afford surgery could get their hearts fixed for free.

He also trained other doctors and nurses, so they could help even more people in Egypt and across Africa. Thousands of patients whose families had no money got a second chance at life because of him.

Pray for other doctors and nurses, like Magdi, who are working all across the world to give better healthcare and medicine to the poorest people.

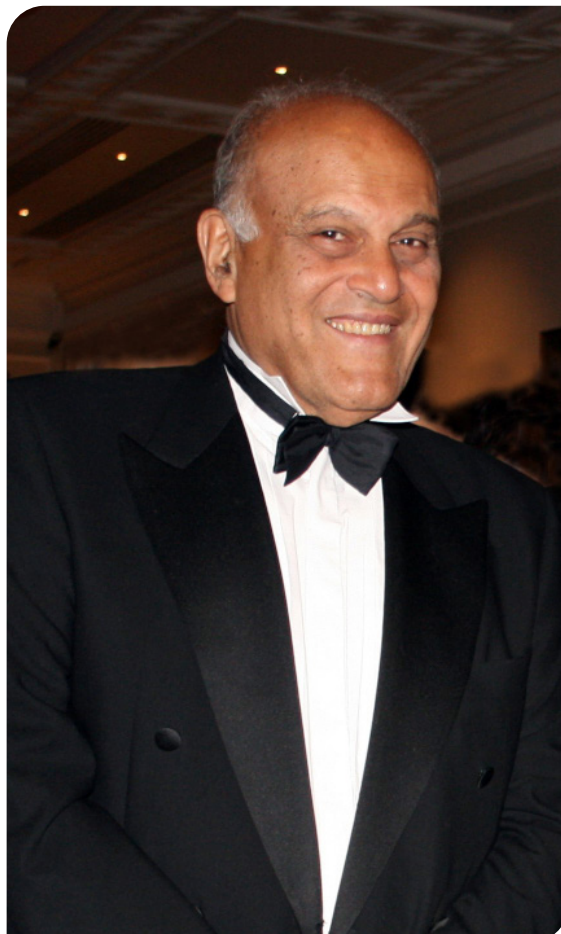
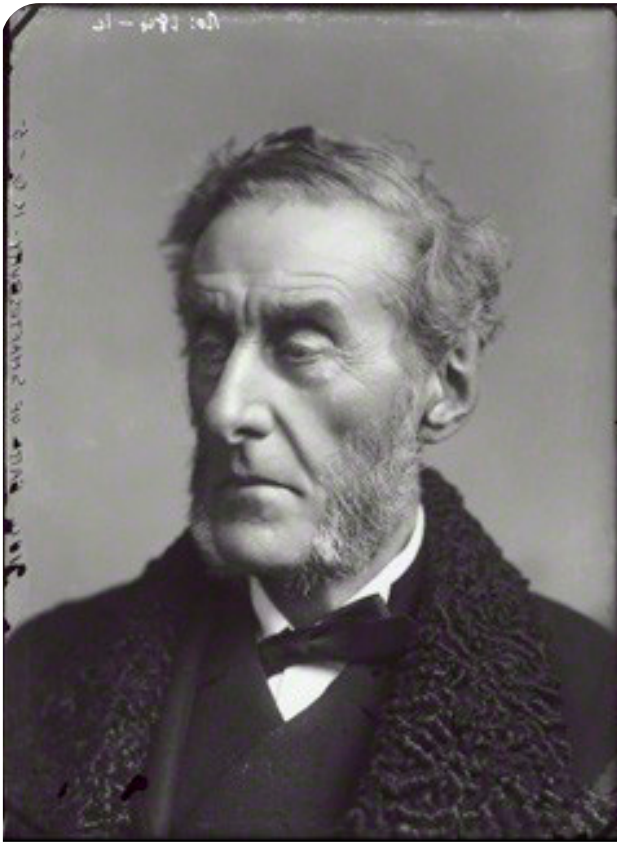


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Biography 1: Lord Shaftsbury

Session 4



Anthony Ashley Cooper (known as Lord Ashley, until his father died and he took over the family title of 'Lord Shaftsbury') was a Victorian MP. He was born in 1801 to a very wealthy, well-connected family of aristocrats (upper class people who held most of power within the country).

Despite having the comfort of wealth, Ashley's childhood was not a happy one. His parents were largely absent and when he did see them, he found them very formal and frightening. Boarding school was little better. When asked about his time at Manor House school, he said:

The place was bad, wicked, filthy; and the treatment was starvation and cruelty.

His place of comfort was the love and kindness he received from the family housekeeper, Maria Mills. She loved him and introduced him to the God who placed that love in her. She told him Bible stories and taught him to pray. She showed him how her Christian faith was lived out by always looking to serve and improve the lives of those around her. Ashley learned from her. He

reflected in his journal: 'I want nothing more than to be useful to God and useful to my country'.

His way of achieving this was to pursue a career in politics. He became an MP in 1827, aged just 25, and intended to use his position to change the laws of the country to make society kinder and fairer:

Every one chooses his career and it is well if he chooses that which is best suited to his talents. I have taken political life because I have, by God's blessing, many advantages of birth and situation [by which he meant that his family was friends with lots of the leaders in the country] which, although of trifling value if unsupported, are yet very powerful aids if joined to zeal and honesty. It is here, therefore, that I have the chief way of being useful to my generation.

He used his first speech in Parliament to call for changes to the care of mentally ill people. At the time, they were shut away in lunatic asylums in filthy, degrading conditions. Shaftsbury visited one in London to find the occupants all but naked, badly fed and spending long periods in chains. He became chairman of the Lunacy Commissioners and continued to press for reform. By 1845 he had pushed through legislation which treated the mentally ill as people needing care, rather than as social outcasts.

Lord Shaftsbury lived in the Victorian era when many children worked long, dangerous hours in factories and when huge numbers of people lived in extreme poverty. He knew that everyone was precious to God and so all people should be treated with kindness, dignity and respect. This led him to work on other laws to improve society:

- **Factory Reform:** creating a shorter working day for women and children and improving the working conditions.
- **Improving the mines:** banning women and children under ten from working down the mines.
- **'Climbing Boys Society':** applying pressure to stop children from working as chimney sweeps.
- **Chairman of the 'Ragged Schools Union':** which provided free education for poor children.

- **Improving housing:** many Victorians lived in slums with no clean water or drains. His 1851 'Lodging House Act' improved the situation for many. Charles Dickens called it 'the best piece of legislation [law] that ever proceeded from the English parliament'.

He also gave huge amounts of his time to other charities, often acting as patron, chairman, president or tireless advocate. Often his time was accompanied by generous financial donations. Whilst he put a lot of time and effort into improving people's physical living conditions, he put equal energy and focus into their spiritual position. His proclaimed goal was to see 'the gospel [good news of Jesus] taken to the door of every man, woman and child'. He thought that if he could only see more people live out their lives according to Jesus' teaching (like he was trying to do) then society would automatically

become kinder and fairer for all. There would be no need for the government to pass so many laws to protect the poorest and most vulnerable people. By following Jesus, everyone would be living more kindly.

Lord Shaftsbury was famous in his day and much beloved. When he died, his funeral was held at Westminster Abbey. He was even offered the honour of a tomb there. On the day of the funeral, the streets of London were lined by people from all walks of life, rich and poor. Due to constantly trying to improve the lives of the poor and marginalised, Lord Shaftsbury had become known as the 'Poor Man's Earl'.

Lord Shaftesbury, 'The Poor Man's Earl' (Shorter Version)

Anthony Ashley Cooper was born in 1801. He was from a very rich family, but his childhood was not happy. His parents were often away and seemed scary. At school, he was treated badly.

The person who cared for him most was Maria, the family's housekeeper. She showed him love and taught him about God, the Bible, and prayer. She showed him that following Jesus means being kind and helping others.

Ashley wanted to live like that too. He said, 'I want nothing more than to be useful to God and useful to my country.'

When he grew up, he became a politician (a Member of Parliament) at only 25 years old. He wanted to use his job to make life better and fairer for people.

His first big change was to help people with mental illness. Back then, they were kept in dirty, cruel places. He made new laws so they were treated with care and respect instead.

Ashley (now called Lord Shaftesbury) also worked hard to help children and poor people. Some of the things he did were:

- **Factory Reform:** made shorter working days for women and children.
- **Mines:** stopped women and young children from working underground.
- **Chimney Sweeps:** helped to end the use of children as 'climbing boys'.
- **Ragged Schools:** gave poor children free education.
- **Housing:** made new rules so homes had clean water and drains.

He also gave money and time to many charities. He wanted everyone to hear about Jesus, because he believed if people lived like Jesus taught, the world would be kinder.

When Lord Shaftesbury died, people called him the 'Poor Man's Earl' because he cared so much for the weak and the poor. At his funeral, both rich and poor came to say goodbye.

Biography 2: Gladys Aylward

Session 4



All odds were against Gladys Aylward's dream to take the good news about Jesus to China. She was born in 1902 and came from a working class home in England, and became a parlour maid at the age of 14. At 18 she heard about Jesus and desperately wanted to go to China, learn the language, and teach others about his deep love for her and for them. She had heard of the work Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission and applied to work for them, but because of her low level of education, it was thought she would not be able to learn the difficult Chinese language.

She didn't give up on her goal of reaching China. She continued praying, reading about China, and saving her money that she earned as a maid. Eventually, she heard about an aging woman named Jean Lawson who needed an assistant.

She didn't have enough money for the voyage by sea, so against the advice of many around her, she took a train through Siberia (Northern Russia). It was a war-torn area at the time, and through many adventures and difficulties God brought her to China safely. Her dependence on Jesus during her journey was nothing short of miraculous. At one time the train stopped

and she had to get off and carry her belongings through the snow not knowing how she would make the rest of the journey. God answered prayer again and again helping her make it safely to China.

She found herself in a foreign land with a great language barrier as well as unfamiliar customs. Jean Lawson welcomed her and together they restored an old inn. They called it the Inn of the Eight Happinesses. They fed mules and their drivers and allowed them to sleep on the hearth. In the evenings they would tell the stories of Jesus to the traveling drivers. These mule train drivers then took the stories of Jesus and told them to others along their journeys. During this time of hard work, Gladys learned the language she was told would be too difficult for her.

She helped fix up an old building, lead mules by her hand into the courtyard, and she learned to enjoy the food and culture of the Chinese. When Jean Lawson took a fall that led to her death, Gladys carried on the work with their translator and cook.

Little did Gladys know that more challenges lay ahead. The government gave her the job of inspecting girl's feet in the villages surrounding her. Foot binding (tying up girl's feet to stop them from growing) had been a common Chinese practice since the people valued small feet for women. However, the infections and health detriments caused the government to forbid the ancient practice. As an inspector, Gladys was not always popular but she got an opportunity to travel and share stories about Jesus in all the villages.

On these trips she noticed many disturbing things. She found orphans roaming and hungry, without anyone to care for them. She began to bring them back to the Inn and adopted many of them. She also noticed the horrible conditions of Chinese prisons and spoke out for reform.

Once she was called to her local prison because the inmates were rampaging in the prison courtyard and several of them had been killed. The soldiers were afraid to intervene. The warden of the prison told her to go into the courtyard and stop the rioting. She responded, 'How can I do that?' He replied, 'You have been preaching that those who trust in Christ have nothing

to fear.' That settled it for her, and she boldly entered the courtyard, asking God for strength and protection.

Incredibly, she single-handedly stopped the bloodshed and commanded the men to return to their cells. They obeyed. She advocated on behalf of the prisoner's conditions and soon the prison had been completely transformed.

The people began to call Gladys Ai-weh-deh, which means 'Virtuous One.' The locals loved her for her dedication to children and those who were suffering.

When Japan invaded China she also cared for wounded soldiers. Because of her help to the Chinese, she had to flee from the Japanese invaders. They had placed a 'bounty on her head' (a reward for whoever captured or killed her) so she had to escape through the mountains to safety with 100 children. At one point they arrived

at the mighty Yellow River and were unable to cross because there were no boats. Gladys prayed and a Chinese army officer appeared and gave them the help they needed. When they finally arrived to safety, Gladys was so sick and malnourished that she almost died.

Gladys never recovered to full health though she did get better with medicine and nutrition from the typhus and pneumonia she suffered from on the trip. She returned to England for ten years to share her stories about the need for the gospel in China. When she tried to return to China, she was denied entry by the communist government that had come to power while she was gone. So she went to Taiwan where she set up an orphanage and lived out her days serving others until her death in 1970.

Article and picture adapted from <https://melissapoelstra.com/2024/03/gladys-aylward-faithful-and-flawed/>

Gladys Aylward, The Brave Woman Who Loved Children (Shorter Version)

Gladys Aylward was born in 1902 in England. She came from a normal family and worked as a maid when she was 14.

When she was 18, she heard about Jesus and wanted to go to China to tell people about his love. Many people said she couldn't do it because learning Chinese was too hard. But Gladys didn't give up. She prayed, saved her money, and kept trying.

Finally, she got a chance to go to China with an older woman named Jean Lawson. She couldn't afford a ship, so she took a long, dangerous train journey through Siberia (northern Russia). God helped her all the way, even when she had to walk through snow carrying her bags.

When Gladys arrived in China, everything was new and different. She worked with Jean to fix up an old inn called the Inn of the Eight Happinesses. They fed travellers and told them about Jesus. These travellers then

shared the stories with others along their journeys. Gladys also learned Chinese, even though people had said it was too difficult.

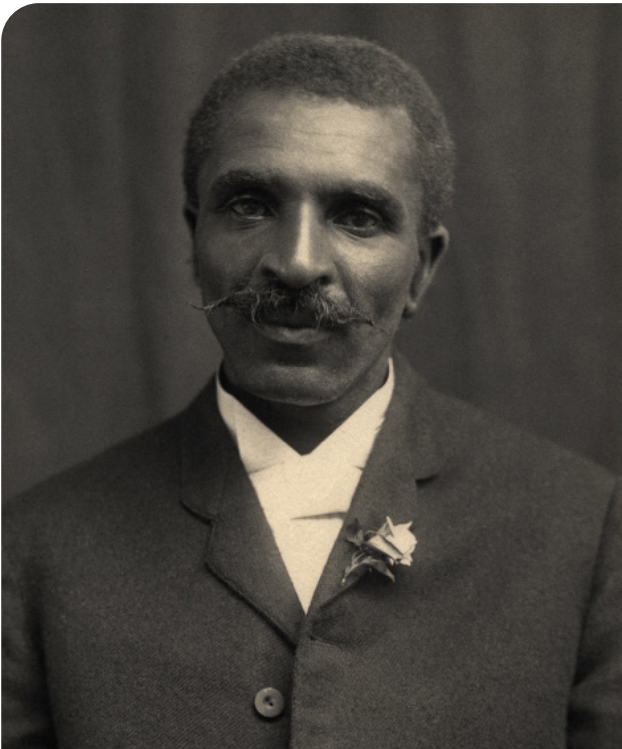
Gladys' work wasn't easy. She helped stop a harmful practice called foot binding, which hurt many girls. She also saw many orphans and started caring for them, bringing them to the Inn. She spoke out to improve prisons and make them safer. Once, she bravely went into a prison where prisoners were fighting and stopped the violence all by herself! People started calling her Ai-weh-deh, which means 'Virtuous One.'

When Japan invaded China, Gladys helped wounded soldiers and took care of children. She had to escape with 100 children through mountains and rivers to stay safe. She prayed, and God helped them cross the Yellow River safely. She became very sick on the journey but survived.

Gladys later returned to England to tell people about China and Jesus. She eventually went back to Taiwan, where she started an orphanage and spent her life helping children until she died in 1970.

Biography 3: George Washington Carver

Session 4



George Washington Carver (1864-1943) was an American agricultural scientist and inventor. He saw the damage that had been done to the soil by repeatedly growing cotton. He helped farmers, particularly poorer farmers, to plant other crops like peanuts and sweet potatoes. These crops were good for enriching the soil. This meant that farmers' yields (the amount they could harvest) went up, making them richer. He was one of the most prominent black scientists of the early 20th century.

George Washington Carver was born into slavery at a time when many people were used by white 'owners' on the cotton plantations. He was freed from this as a child but faced a lot of racism as he tried to get an education.

George did not keep his studies into increasing crop yields and the different uses for peanuts to himself. He tried to share his knowledge with everyone, most particularly the poorest farmers. In 1906 he designed the Jessup Wagon, a demonstration laboratory on wheels. This toured round farms, showing and teaching farmers how to improve their soil and increase their harvest. He taught them more uses for peanuts so that farmers could make more money. In this way poorer farmers could support their families better.

His work made him famous. Three American presidents met him and the Crown Prince of Sweeden even came to study with him. He was often called to speak as the expert witness in public debates. He used his fame to promote racial harmony, publicise more widely how to improve farming and to share more uses for peanuts so that there was a good market for the farmers.

George believed he could have faith both in God and science. Here he describes how he became a Christian as a young boy:

I was just a mere boy when converted, hardly ten years old. There isn't much of a story to it. God just came into my heart one afternoon while I was alone in the 'loft' of our big barn while I was shelling corn to carry to the mill to be ground into meal.

A dear little white boy, one of our neighbours, about my age came by one Saturday morning, and in talking and playing he told me he was going to Sunday school tomorrow morning. I was eager to know what a Sunday school was. He said they sang hymns and prayed. I asked him what prayer was and what they said. I do not remember what he said; only remember that as soon as he left I climbed up into the 'loft,' knelt down by the barrel of corn and prayed as best I could. I do not remember what I said. I only recall that I felt so good that I prayed several times before I quit.

My brother and myself were the only coloured children in that neighbourhood and of course, we could not go to church or Sunday school, or school of any kind.

That was my simple conversion, and I have tried to keep the faith.

G. W. Carver; Letter to Isabelle Coleman;
24 July 1931

George thought that faith in Jesus was the way to destroy both barriers of racism and to make a more equal society. He was as concerned with his students' character development as he was with their intellectual development.

He wrote a list of ‘eight cardinal virtues’ that he thought were crucial for people to grow in themselves:

1. Be clean both inside and out.
2. Who neither looks up to the rich nor down on the poor.
3. Who loses, if needs be, without squealing.
4. Who wins without bragging.
5. Who is always considerate of women, children and old people.
6. Who is too brave to lie.
7. Who is too generous to cheat.
8. Who takes his share of the world and lets other people have theirs.



Portrait photo by Adam Cuerden - Tuskegee University Archives/Museum, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46611459>

Jessup Wagon photo from <https://www.tuskegee.edu/legacy/george-washington-carver.html>

George Washington Carver, Scientist Who Loved Helping Farmers (Shorter Version)

George Washington Carver was born in 1864 in America. When he was a baby, he was a slave, which means his family had no freedom. Later, he was free, but life was still hard because many people treated him unfairly because of the colour of his skin.

George loved learning and wanted to help farmers grow better crops. He saw that planting only cotton ruined the soil. So he taught farmers to plant peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other crops that helped the land. This meant the farmers could grow more food and make more money.

He even made a mobile lab on a wagon that went to farms. Farmers could see new ways to grow crops and use peanuts to make things like peanut butter, soap, and paint. George wanted to share what he learned with everyone, especially poor farmers, so they could take care of their families.

George became famous for his work. Presidents and even a prince came to meet him. But he used his fame not for himself – he used it to help farmers, encourage peace

between races, and show everyone the many uses of peanuts.

George also loved God. He became a Christian when he was about ten years old. He prayed alone in a barn and felt very happy. Even though he and his brother couldn't go to school or church like other children, he kept his faith in Jesus.

George believed that following Jesus helped people be kind and fair. He wanted people to grow not just smart, but also good. He made a list of eight important rules to live by:

1. Be clean inside and out.
2. Treat everyone equally – rich or poor.
3. Accept losing without complaining.
4. Accept winning without bragging.
5. Be kind to women, children, and old people.
6. Be brave enough to always tell the truth.
7. Be generous and fair.
8. Take your share of the world and let others have theirs too.

George Washington Carver spent his life helping people, teaching farmers, and showing everyone that God and science could work together to make the world better.

Biography 3: STORMZY

Session 4



Michael Ebenezer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Junior was born in London in 1993. He is better known today as 'Stormzy' and is a famous rapper, singer and songwriter. His family was not especially musical but he began rapping aged 11 and enjoyed clashing with older rappers at his local youth club. He grew up with his mum, brother and two sisters after his dad walked out on them. In one of his songs called 'Lay Me Bare' his words talk about the pain and anger that he still feels.

When he was asked about his school years, he said:

I was a very naughty child, on the verge of getting expelled... Everything I did was for my own entertainment. But when I went into an exam I did really well... It was A Levels that showed me in life that you need a work ethic.

After school he worked at an oil refinery in Hampshire until his music career took off. He is now really famous with his music. Some of his achievements include:

- Winning lots of Brit Awards including British Male Solo Artist and British Album of the Year.

- 'Gang Signs & Prayer' was the first grime (a type of music) album to reach Number 1 in the UK charts. He has also had two other albums reach Number 1 in the charts.
- Being the first black British artist to headline Glastonbury (one of the most famous music festivals in the world).

He is widely liked in the music industry, with headlines about him like: '9 times Stormzy was the nicest guy in the game'. He often uses his music to highlight injustice (where he sees people not being treated properly by others) and he uses a significant amount of the money he makes from music to help other people.

In 2022 he was given an honorary degree (a degree he did not study for but earned through his achievements in life) at the University of Exeter. He was given it for his 'outstanding achievement in philanthropy [giving money to help others] and widening participation [helping more people be able to give something a go]'. He gave a speech at the ceremony in which he said:

I have been so richly blessed by God and I don't just mean financially [with money]. I mean with love and life and family and joy and with peace and with purpose.

So to put it simply, I've bared fruit and I share fruit and without sounding too fantastical, that's just what we're meant to do in whatever way we can... some of us will help our local community, some of us will help the neighbour next door, some of us will help the world...

My point being that we should always share and support in whatever way we are able to. All of these different sizes and level of being a helping hand are all beautiful and all of them are just as powerful as each other.

Some of his projects for helping others include:

- Launching #Merky Books which helps young, unpublished authors from less privileged backgrounds to get their work published.
- Setting up the 'Stormzy Scholarship Scheme' at the University of Cambridge to give full financial support to a group of black students every year. He is aware that these students

face more barriers in being able to go to university and he wanted to help them. By 2026 this fund will have helped 81 students.

- Promising £10 million to charities that are tackling racial inequality in the UK

Stormzy grew up in a Christian home, but explains that his faith became much deeper during the pandemic when he more earnestly pursued prayer, studying the Bible and sharing his wealth. He found that it helped him know God more deeply by coming off social media and spending time every day with God through prayer and Bible study. Now that his faith is more central to his life, he has written a new song called 'This is What I Mean' where he wrestles with forgiving his dad. He realises that since he's been forgiven so much by God, he wants to also show forgiveness to his dad and let go of the pain.



Photo above by Henry W. Laurisch - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=76826163>

Photo opposite by Raph_PH - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/69880995@N04/51966874684/>, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=146185005>

Stormzy, Music Star Who Helps Others (Shorter Version)

Michael Owuo Jr., better known as Stormzy, was born in London in 1993. He grew up with his mum, brother, and two sisters. His dad left when he was young, which made him feel sad and angry sometimes.

Stormzy started rapping when he was 11. He loved performing and having rap battles at his local youth club. At school, he said he was a bit naughty, but he also worked hard when it mattered and did well in his exams.

After school, he worked at an oil refinery, but soon his music became famous. Some of his big achievements include:

- Winning many Brit Awards for his music.
- His album *Gang Signs & Prayer* was the first grime album to reach Number 1 in the UK.
- He was the first black British artist to headline Glastonbury, one of the biggest music festivals in the world.

Stormzy is known for being kind and using his music to talk about injustice, or when people

are treated unfairly. He also uses a lot of the money he earns to help others.

Some of the ways he helps people include:

- #Merky Books: helping young writers from less privileged backgrounds get their books published.
- Stormzy Scholarship Scheme: giving full support to black students at the University of Cambridge so they can study without money worries. By 2026, it will have helped 81 students.
- Donating £10 million to charities that fight racial inequality in the UK.

Stormzy grew up in a Christian home and became closer to God during the pandemic. He spends time praying and reading the Bible every day. He says that God has forgiven him a lot, so he wants to forgive others too, including his dad.

Stormzy uses his music, his money, and his time to help people and make the world a kinder place.