



# **The Good Samaritan**

**Luke 10:30-37**

**"This is my favorite part of camp!" Louis said with a smile.**

**"What's that?" Ranger Reggie asked.**

**Louis patted the neck of the donkey he was riding. "Riding the donkeys on the trail."**

**"Yeah," Natalie agreed, "I'm gonna' miss these trail rides." Everyone agreed.**

**Even Amanda nodded as she added, "I guess I will miss our walks." She waved a hand in front of her nose. "But, I won't miss the smell of these donkeys! They stink!"**

**"I can't believe the summer is over. I'm not ready to go home tomorrow," Billy said sadly.**

**"Ow, ow, ow!" came a cry from around the corner. The campers stopped their playful chatter and looked ahead as Ranger Reggie hopped off of his donkey and ran to see what the noise was all about. The campers rode up to see a counselor and Ranger Reggie bending over a little camper sitting on the ground. A younger group of campers watched in silence.**

**"Let me see, Katie," Ranger Reggie said as he gently pressed on her ankle. The little girl burst into tears.**

**"Hmm, I think you sprained your ankle. Let's get you back to camp." He turned to Katie's camp counselor, who had been leading the younger campers on a nature walk, and said, "Katie will not be able to walk back with you. I will give her a ride on my donkey."**

**The counselor agreed. Ranger Reggie scooped the little camper up and carefully placed her on his donkey. Katie swiped at the tears on her face and waved goodbye to her friends. Ranger Reggie signaled for Billy, Natalie, Amanda, and Louis to follow him as he walked alongside his donkey, leading it back toward camp.**

**Ranger Reggie turned and smiled at his campers. "Helping Katie with her injury and giving her a ride on my donkey reminds me of a parable Jesus told."**

**"Which story, Ranger Reggie?" Amanda asked.**

**"The Parable of the Good Samaritan," he said as he pulled his Bible from the donkey's saddlebag. He opened it to Luke 10 and carefully read while continuing to walk. "Jesus said, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.'"**

**"That's awful!" Natalie exclaimed.**

**Ranger Reggie nodded his head and continued reading, "A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side."**

**"What?!" Billy cried. "How can a priest just walk by a hurt man like that?"**

**"I don't know," Ranger Reggie said, "but sadly, he wasn't the only one who didn't stop. A Levite walked right past the man, too!"**

**"What's a Levite?" little Katie asked, forgetting about her ankle for the moment.**

**"Levites and priests were religious people. They should have stopped to help," Natalie answered. "That's so sad! I would have helped if I had been there."**

**"Did *anyone* help the man?" Louis asked.**

**"Listen to what happened next," Ranger Reggie said. "A Samaritan, as he traveled, 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. The next day he took out two silver coins 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.'"**

**"That Samaritan was a nice guy. I like him," Amanda commented.**

**"Now remember, Jesus told the parables to teach us something. Here's the question Jesus asked." Ranger Reggie read, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"**

**"The Samaritan!" the campers replied together.**

**"That's right!" Ranger Reggie replied. "The priest and Levite did not even bother to stop and check on the man. The Samaritan went out of his way to help. He used his own bandages, his own oil and wine, his own donkey, and his own money to care for the hurt man! The Samaritan sacrificed all he had to help someone else! What a great friend and neighbor!"**

**"So, Jesus wants us to be like the good Samaritan," Louis said. "When we see someone in need, we should do everything we can to help."**

**"That's right," Ranger Reggie nodded. "Putting others first—that's loving your neighbor as yourself! Just like Jesus wants you to do!" He smiled as he looked up at Katie riding on his donkey. "And we are almost to camp so the nurse can care for your ankle, young lady!"**

**Amanda looked sadly at the end of the path and the donkey corral up ahead. "I wish we didn't have to go home tomorrow, but at least I know what I can do when I get there. I can help others in need."**

**Ranger Reggie gave her an approving grin. "I will miss you all. But, I know you will go home and love God with all your heart, you will love your neighbor as yourself, and you will be a light wherever you go! Then, next summer, you can come back and tell me all about it!"**