



Jesus builds bridges of friendship

These stories can help students understand how Jesus crossed cultural and religious boundaries to show kindness, compassion, and respect. You can use them to discuss how they, too, can build bridges of friendship with people from different backgrounds.

The Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:7-26)

Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman, even though Jews and Samaritans typically didn't interact. He shows kindness and respect, offering her the living water of faith.

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Jesus tells a parable about a good Samaritan who helps a wounded man, showing that kindness and love for others can come from anyone, regardless of background or religion.

Jesus heals a Roman centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13)

Jesus heals the servant of a Roman centurion, demonstrating respect for a person from a different culture and even praising the centurion's faith.

Jesus heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21-28)

A Canaanite woman asks Jesus to heal her daughter. Though she is from a different culture, Jesus listens to her and helps her, showing kindness to someone outside his own people.

Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:9-13, Mark 2:15-17, Luke 5:29-32)

Jesus invites people who were considered sinners by society, such as tax collectors, to eat with him, showing that everyone is worthy of his love and respect, no matter their background.

The healing of the blind man (John 9:1-12)

Jesus heals a man born blind, and the story reveals how Jesus shows care and compassion for people who are marginalized by society.

The parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7)

Jesus tells a parable about a shepherd who goes out to find one lost sheep, showing that no one is excluded and that God's love reaches out to everyone, regardless of their background.

Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

Jesus interacts with Zacchaeus, a tax collector, and invites himself to his home. Despite Zacchaeus being seen as a sinner by society, Jesus shows respect and kindness.



Jesus heals a Syrophenician woman's daughter (Mark 7:24-30)

Jesus heals the daughter of a Syrophenician woman, again showing that His compassion and love extend beyond His own people.

Jesus and the Gentile woman with the blood issue (Mark 5:24-34)

Jesus heals a woman from a non-Jewish background, showing that faith in him can come from all people, not just Jews.