




# REPAVING

# THE JERICHO ROAD



The parable of the good Samaritan is one of Jesus' most famous parables. It has inspired many people to help others, especially in emergencies. In fact, people who stop to help strangers in need have become known as "good Samaritans." There are even "good Samaritan laws" that define how a person without medical training can help in an emergency. But the parable is about more than just helping someone in a time of crisis. It's also about being a neighbor to someone who is different from you. Maybe that's why Martin Luther King Jr. preached about this parable so often.

Dr. King saw the good Samaritan as a person who was willing to take risks to help others. While the priest and the Levite passed by on the other side, the Samaritan came closer to the injured man. And coming closer may have been a dangerous move. In one speech, Dr. King pointed out that the road between Jericho and Jerusalem is dangerous. It's steep and curvy. It would be easy for thieves to hide at a bend in the road and jump out to attack people. Dr. King imagined what might have run through the mind of the priest and the Levite: *What if the people who attacked this man are still around, waiting to attack me if I help him? What if this man is a robber himself and is just faking injury so I'll come close to him?* In other words, the priest and the Levite were worried about what would happen to them if they stopped to help the injured man.

Dr. King pointed out that the Samaritan thought differently. He worried about what would happen to the injured man if he didn't stop to help. Dr. King encouraged people to pay attention to their neighbors, see their struggles, and support them. He also urged people to go even further than the good Samaritan went. You may wonder how that's possible. After all, the Samaritan offered first aid, took the man to an inn, and paid for any future medical care he needed. That's pretty supportive! But Dr. King pointed out that, while it's important to help people who are already hurt, it's also important to try to prevent more people from getting hurt on the Jericho road. That means it's important to try to make the road safer for everyone to travel without fear.



Have you ever  
thought of the story  
this way? If you wanted to  
make a road less dangerous, how  
would you do it?

How can you make  
other spaces, such as  
school or church, safer for  
everyone, no matter what their  
background is?



# Communities with a Mission

The Princess Basma Centre



When we think of service or mission, we often think of one-time projects or trips that we take. Those can be amazing moments of sharing God's love. But service and mission don't have to be limited to individual trips and projects. Communities can join together and commit to a particular mission for the long haul. A long-term mission can transform a community. It can bring community members together around a common vision. Faith communities with a mission can make a huge impact! This year, your group has the opportunity to support four communities around the world. Each community has a mission that spreads God's love. The first community is the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC).

The Princess Basma Centre is named after, you guessed it, Princess Basma, a member of the royal family of Jordan. JPBC first opened more than 50 years ago with the support of the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church. JPBC's mission is to serve children with disabilities. At the beginning, JPBC mainly served children who couldn't walk because of polio. Over time, it has expanded to serve children with all kinds of disabilities. JPBC provides medical diagnosis and treatment, but it doesn't stop there.

JPBC works to help people with disabilities participate fully in their communities. That's why they opened the Princess Basma Inclusive School in 1987. The school gives children with disabilities the opportunity to learn alongside children without disabilities. You may wonder why JPBC didn't open a school that is only for students with disabilities. Many people have found that when people with disabilities are separated from people without disabilities, a barrier forms. It becomes difficult for people with and without disabilities to understand and support one another. The Inclusive School wants to break down that barrier. The school goes from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

About 38% of the students have some kind of disability. The school provides supportive classes for kids with learning disabilities, ADHD, autism, and hearing disabilities.

Another way JPBC helps people with disabilities fully participate in their communities is through the Sheltered Workshop. It provides job training so that people with disabilities can become more independent. People learn to make products such as baskets, stools, coffee tables, and carpets. They also share meals, celebrate holidays, and take recreational trips together.

The community that created and continues to support the Princess Basma Centre has made a huge impact in Jerusalem. That impact has spread throughout the region as more centers for children with disabilities have opened. JPBC continues to change and grow to better accomplish its mission. You can help JPBC continue to support children with disabilities by:

- Raising money! You donate money using the Global Ministries Advance #14238A. Visit [www.umcmmission.org/give-to-mission/search-for-projects/projects/14238a/](http://www.umcmmission.org/give-to-mission/search-for-projects/projects/14238a/) for more information.
- Sending encouraging notes or cards! You can send notes or cards to:



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