



Who Is My Neighbor?

(based on Luke 10:25–37)

One day, a man who studied God’s law came to Jesus with a question.

“Teacher,” he said. “God’s law tells us to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength—and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.”

“Yes, that’s right,” said Jesus.

“Well,” responded the man. “Who is my neighbor?”

Jesus answered the question by telling a story:

A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. Some robbers attacked him on the road. They beat him up and stole everything he had, even his clothes. Then they ran away, leaving him badly injured. The poor man needed help, and he needed it quickly.

A priest was walking along the same road. Surely, he would help the man. However, when the priest saw the injured man he quickly crossed over to the other side of the road and passed by.

A religious teacher came down the same road. Surely, he would help the man. No. He crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way, ignoring the injured man.

Finally, a Samaritan (suh-MEHR-ih-tuhn) came along that same road. When he saw the man, he stopped at once. He gently washed and bandaged the man’s wounds. He lifted him onto his donkey and took him to an inn. Then he gave the innkeeper money to look after him.

When Jesus finished the story, he looked at the man who studied God’s law and asked, “Which of the three travelers was a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?”

“The one who showed kindness,” replied the man.

“Go and do the same,” said Jesus.



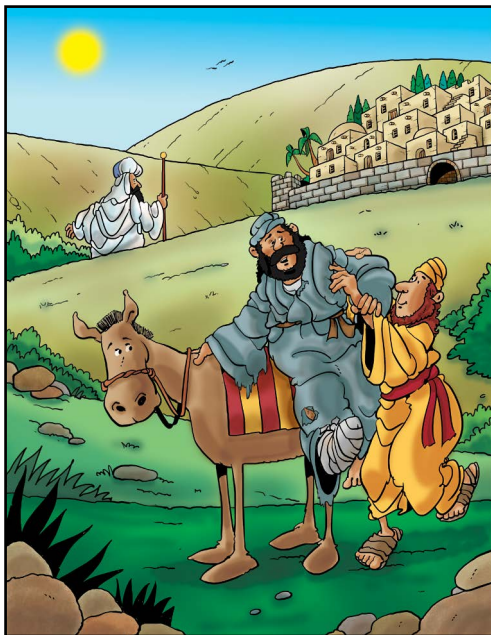
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your child—imagine and wonder.
- Invite everyone to go find one item that would be helpful for a character in the story. When they return, ask them to tell why they picked the object and the character it would help.
- The Samaritan knew what the injured man needed and how to care for him. Draw a picture of all the ways the Samaritan helped the injured man.
- Jesus' answer to the question about neighbors helps us learn how to love and serve God. Invite everyone to ask a question, any question, about loving and serving God.



Responding to God's Grace

- Invite people to name one thing they know or one thing they wished they knew about a neighbor. Brainstorm how to learn more about your neighbors. Pray for your neighborhood and your neighbors.
- Take a walk around your neighborhood or apartment complex. As you walk, look at your neighborhood and listen to your neighbors. Name some things you think a neighbor or your neighborhood may need. Make a plan to help a nearby neighbor, such as visiting someone who is lonely or tidying a yard.
- Sometimes neighbors around the world need help. Visit the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website at pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/. Pick one type of kit, collect the items, assemble, and mail them. If you need help packing one kit or want to prepare more kits to send, enlist help from your neighbors, extended family, friends, or your church.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Invite your family to mark a calendar with a smiley face or sticker each day someone does or witnesses a random act of kindness to a family member, a friend, a neighbor, the community, or the world. The act may be as simple as praying for people in a country picked at random from a map or globe, or as complex as arranging a ride for someone to get to a doctor's appointment.
- Pray this prayer each day this week:

God, help us find ways to serve our neighbors near and far. Amen.