

LUKE 10: 25 - 37

²⁵An expert in the Law of Moses stood up and asked Jesus a question to see what he would say. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to have eternal life?"

²⁶Jesus answered, "What is written in the Scriptures? How do you understand them?"

²⁷The man replied, "The Scriptures say, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.' They also say, 'Love your neighbors as much as you love yourself.' "

²⁸Jesus said, "You have given the right answer. If you do this, you will have eternal life." ²⁹But the man wanted to show that he knew what he was talking about. So he asked Jesus, "Who are my neighbors?"

³⁰Jesus replied:

As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, robbers attacked him and grabbed everything he had. They beat him up and ran off, leaving him half dead.

³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road. But when he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. ³²Later a temple helper came to the same place. But when he saw the man who had been beaten up, he also went by on the other side. ³³A man from Samaria then came travelling along that road. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him ³⁴and went over to him. He treated his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put him on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵The next morning he gave the innkeeper two silver coins and said, "Please take care of the man. If you spend more than this on him, I will pay you when I return."

³⁶Then Jesus asked, "Which one of these three people was a real neighbour to the man who was beaten up by robbers?"

³⁷The teacher answered, "The one who showed pity."

Jesus said, "Go and do the same!"

Opening the Bible

- First read from verse 25 – 29. Highlight all the words beginning with the letter 'L'. Give your group a minute or so to check through these verses and get ready for the 'L' words.
- Read the text. One person reads all the words; the whole group joins in on the words beginning with the letter L.
- Move into groups of about 3 or 4 (if doing this activity as a multi-age community make the groups much bigger – up to 10 is fine – so that some people in each group are free to watch and cheer – while others who are keen play active roles. Make participation in a group mandatory, but participation in the activity completely optional.)
- Each group is challenged (with only a minute on the clock) to improvise one scene of what the bible bit just read might look like in a photograph.
- If you have a camera, snap each group - or better still, give a child a camera and see the scenes through their lens.
- Now read verse 30 – 37. Highlight the words beginning with the letter B and repeat the same process as before.

You should get permission to take photographs of children. Once you have gained permission, invite a keen kid to upload the shots to their computer and create a powerpoint sequence of the story. Many children are adept at creating voice threads and photo stories and should manage this without much adult intervention – leaving grownups free to be encouraging and affirming (and slightly overawed by the 'kid's tech-savvy style'!)

You could show this in your church community.



Prayer Places

Use a sand tray (slightly damp) to create a topography of the Good Samaritan Story. Make a village, a long road, a city. Use blocks for houses in the village: cover some with foil for city building. Add rocks and leafy twigs to create land features. The robbers will need some good rocks to hide behind. Plastic farm animals could inhabit the village. Designate an inn – a place of hospitality and care.

After you have created the topography, add prayer cards to the various places with the children, and pray as the card prompts.

Village: Dear God, thank you for our communities, that we live sharing with others with company and friends around us. You have made us to live this way and you say it is not good to be alone too much. Please open our eyes to see those around us who need us to be good neighbours. Show us ways that we can provide a good village of nurture.



Road: Lord Jesus, you walked on many roads taking good news, love and justice to many places. We pray for the men and women who travel the road to care for others in the community.

And we pray for those who have travelled lots of roads and also over the sea to live near us and be our neighbours. May we live in justice and peace together as we walk with you.



City: Dear God. Our city is busy and full of people. We do not know all of their stories. But you know every story. You know about the people who need special care. We pray for the families and the alone ones, the young and the old. The 'way too busy ones' and the unemployed.

Inn: Loving God. We thank you for places where people work to care for others. Thankyou for those who are paid staff and for those who volunteer. Thankyou for the part you call us all to have in your good plans for love and justice.



Forest Trees: Dear God, sometimes there are surprises for us and for others that we don't know will happen. Thankyou that whatever happens, you are with us. Please give us a creative and compassionate imagination to discover the ways we are able to help families who have had unexpected things happen, and are in need of something they hadn't planned for. Help us to use our resources, in all the earth, so that we are able to respond with help and generosity at the right time.





Confession Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You have given us clear stories by which to remember the ways you want us to live in your world. We thank you for the Parable of the Good Samaritan. But we are sorry that we have played the wrong parts, and not just pretending: but in our real words and thoughts and actions.

Your love for us and for your whole creation means that we know our words and thoughts and actions are important to you. You want them to be loving and just, full of faith and hope, bringing peace and compassion, shaped by your righteousness.

We have been robbers:

We have clothes and others are shivering,

We have peace and others are under fire,

We have a home and others have only a journey in a boat.

Forgive us, and gives us new words, thoughts and actions of Love for our neighbour.

We have been passers by:

We have been 'Don't want to know too much'

We have been 'Probably their own fault'

We have been 'It's none of my business'

Forgive us, and gives us new words, thoughts and actions of Love for our neighbour.

Lord Jesus, you have carried our sorrows and borne our griefs.

Give us your servant-spirit to carry and care for the broken in our midst, in our land, who come to our threshold, who share this planet.

Loving God, you are our shelter and home:

Make us a place of safety and welcome, of hospitality and healing in our community.

In our words, our thoughts and our actions of Love for our Neighbour. Amen

This confession prayer can be led by a tableau of characters.

A clear leader

3 'balaclava-black' robbers

Set in frozen 'ninja' poses (easy to get a dramatic effect with the word Ninja with kids!)

3 Diversely dressed passers by. Important to have representation of male and female. Each holds a different pose of indifference or disdain (head in newspaper, listening to iPod, looking at the sky)

A 'Samaritan'

An Innkeeper or 2 (good to show inn as community)

At the appropriate time, each of these characters 'disrobes' (just taking off the balaclava, or slipping off a jacket symbolically will do), as they abandon their place in the tableau and move to a microphone and lead their line (see in colour), then return to be part of the congregation.

Gradually the tableau disintegrates and we are left only with our real selves.

Displaying the words on screen or in pew sheets is helpful for everyone.



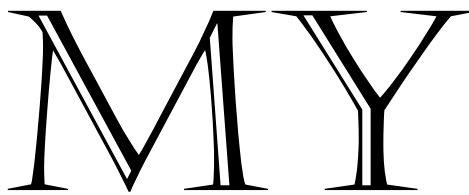
Blanket of Prayer

WHO

Quilt Blankets are a great symbol: cover, warmth, security, care, diversity, patching things together, community. All lovely symbols of what helps life move well.

Give each person one (or more) squares from this template. The square can be decorated or coloured in many different ways, perhaps suggesting the different ways care is shown. Choose from the options below.


IS

A large, black, serif font graphic of the letters 'M', 'Y', and 'Y' arranged horizontally. The letters are bold and have a classic, slightly ornate design.

Craft ideas: glue scraps of fabric, off cuts of wrapping paper, pictures (of people, or any parts of life) from magazines. Rubber stamping, vegie prints, crayon or texta colour or illustration, 'dot painting' with cotton buds, 'spatter painting' flicking paint with a fork. Small mosaic squares, or small overlapping fragments of coloured cellophane. With upper primary, and teens, knit or crochet some squares (20 stitches x 30 rows with 4mm needles should give you a 10X10 cm square).

Write a prayer for care on the back of the square.

Join all your squares together with strong clear packing tape to form a quilt and display.

A large, black, serif font graphic of the words 'NEIGHBOUR' arranged in three rows. The letters are bold and have a classic, slightly ornate design. The first row contains 'N', 'E', and 'I'. The second row contains 'G', 'H', and 'B'. The third row contains 'O', 'U', and 'R'.

What kinds of Care?

Give each person a paper or card cut-out in the shape of person (roughly A4: see sample). Use a range of beige – brown – pink – pastel colours to give choice of skin tone.

Invite each child to name their person and then to give the person some individual features – woollen hair, Joggle eyes or spot stickers, red plasticine 3D lips. Ask them to give their person a name. During this time use the informal conversations to encourage creativity and to affirm the way we can support others with care in different forms.

Offer the following items as symbols of care to collage on to the person:

- Food: dried soup mix/lentils or cut out magazine pix
- Water/health: clear cellophane
- Health care: Band-aids (plain or kids 'wiggles' or 'hi5' types add different age dimensions to this)
- Clothing and blankets: fabric scraps
- Learning or Education: stickers, small crafty junk (foam shapes, popsticks, sequins)
- Family and community: concertina fold out row of people
- Money: play money





Music:

Lincoln Brewster: Love the Lord your God

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8mr839-TVs&feature=related>

<http://www.praisecharts.com/index.php?module=shopping&action=search&what=details&ID=2115>

Always love a song that sticks to the Bible! The second verse: I will serve the Lord...also gives the opportunity to put legs on a 'worship' song, so we know that it's not just about feeling love for God.

Snack Music: Good Mate

<http://www.snackmusic.com.au/products/oh-have-you-heard/#section-downloads>

"Jesus is a good mate, and I can be a good mate too".

You can tell these guys are the real home grown item. Each of the members of 'Snack Music' spends lots of time hanging out with real Melbournian kids: from a primary school pastoral care worker to a mum with 3 under her roof. So this song is full of practical ways that kids can be a good mate in the ways of Jesus.