

Who is your neighbour? -15th Sunday (Year C)

Luke 10:25-37

"They're a good Samaritan". That's a phrase that is used across the world to describe someone who is kind to others. Some people use that phrase and have never even read the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The parable is about a lot more than being kind. It's about going the extra mile, doing more than what is required and doing it for people that could be very different from you. They might even be facing a very different situation in life or even be in a different country than you. Your neighbour could be across the street but they could also be in Cambodia and Ethiopia too.

Sharing Scripture

There is no greater parable that speaks of mercy and love for our neighbours than The Good Samaritan. Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings. Jesus' intention in telling this story was not to primarily entertain but to help people think about the meaning in the story.

The story shares how a man from Jerusalem is beaten, lay close to death and people who you would expect to help him, walk past him. Then a Samaritan (who the people of Jerusalem would not associate with) came upon him and showed great mercy. He treated his wounds and took him to a safe haven even paying for his accommodation.

Read Luke 10:25-37 and then ask your children to re-imagine and act out the parable from a modern perspective. The main points of the parable should remain the same but encourage the children to change the characters to people who we understand to stereotypically 'not get on' or don't expect to associate with each other. For example, could the Good Samaritan/beaten man from Jerusalem become a rich person/poor person or rival football fans? Other parts of the story could change too, like taking someone to the hospital in a car rather than to an inn on a donkey! Encourage creativity while keeping to the key points.

An alternative to this is to read the parable aloud and have the children act it out unscripted but act on your reading as narrator.

SCIAF

SCIAF is an organisation that can help us live out our calling to be 'Good Samaritans' and help people who are in need. We don't need to physically visit the countries where SCIAF work in order to help other people living in need around the world. Instead, we can empower and work with those we are already there to reach out to our sisters and brothers in really difficult situations. Use the pdf 'Anette' to share the story of Anette Mwikisa in Zambia and how she has been helped by Good Samaritans from Scotland as well as in Zambia.

Respond

Ask the children to think of people that need help that they know (elderly family, young children, elderly parishioners and those further afield in countries that SCIAF work in). Spend a little time in silence bringing these people before God in prayer. Ask the children to remember this list each day as they go into the week ahead.