

REFLECTION IDEAS

Who is my Neighbour?

Luke chapter 10 verses 25 to 37

One of the greatest commandments in the Bible is to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Jesus was once asked the question "who is my neighbour?", and he responds with one of the best known of Bible stories, the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Often, we think of our neighbours as the people close by, the people we live near to, or spend time with. The Bible talks about our neighbours in a wider sense as having responsibility and compassion for those who live all over the world, particularly those who are sick, hungry or friendless. Jesus talks about loving our neighbour, even those who we might not like or agree with. It can be hard to love our neighbour, but Christians believe we need to demonstrate love and compassion when and wherever we can.

Reflection

- Imagine being hungry, without a home or a friend. What would it feel like to be in those shoes?
- What can you do to be a good neighbour – to those near to you and to those further away?

Links

A cartoon version of the Bible story can be found here: <https://youtu.be/MLzdQtetedc>.

Please check that it is suitable for your group.

Samaritan's Purse (named after the parable of the Good Samaritan) runs Operation Christmas Child - www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child - a good way to help children to think about what it is like to walk in the shoes of those less fortunate than themselves at Christmas.

Other charities you might consider are: www.wateraid.org, www.iimmyscambridge.org.uk
www.savethechildren.org.uk

Inspire Prayer Space Activity – Neighbours

Equipment

World map / globes

Post-it notes

Pens / pencils

Description

In the Bible, Jesus says that everyone is my neighbour, not just the people who live near me, and not just my friends. People I don't know, even people I don't like, are my neighbours too. And Jesus says that we should all love our neighbours like we love ourselves.

Instructions

Look at the world map. Notice how large the Earth is and how many people live on it - 7.7 billion!

Pick a country on the map. Think about the people who live there and what their life might be like.

What could you do to show your love to these people? You could support a charity that works in that country or organise an event to raise awareness of something happening there. You could find out more by researching a country and then telling others what you have found out, pray for the country, or you may be able to think of another way to show your care for the people there.

Plan to do one of these things as a way of showing they are your neighbours. Write it on a post-it and stick it onto the map. As you do this, you might like to say a prayer, thanking God for the people in the country you are thinking of and asking him to be with them.

inspire
prayer spaces



Adapted from a Prayer Spaces in Schools resource

See below for activity sheet

Who is my Neighbour?

The story can be found in Luke chapter 10 verses 25 to 37

Draw pictures to re-tell the story:

1. Once, Jesus told a story: a man was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho

2. The man was attacked by robbers who took his things and left him badly hurt

3. A holy man came by but did not help – he was too busy being holy

4. A clever teacher came past, but he pretended not to see the hurt man and walked by on the other side of the road

5. A Samaritan, who came from another country, came along. He stopped and helped.

6. The Samaritan gave the man a drink, treated his wounds and gave him a ride on his donkey.

7. The Samaritan found the man a place to stay until he was better, and paid for him to stay there.

8. Jesus asked “who was a neighbour to the man who was hurt?” Write or draw your answer here.
Jesus taught that we should be good neighbours too.

You may find version of the story on the following link useful, with images that can be downloaded to colour in.

www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/Is-good-samaritan

Neighbours code cracker

Our neighbours are all over the world. Use the code to work out the names for each country – the first letters spell out the word “neighbours”. You may not have heard of all of the countries, but perhaps you can ask your teacher to help you to find them on a map or globe.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
o	z	f	p	r	e	w	k	c	b	i
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
m	a	d	y	l	s	g	u	h	t	n

22	6	7		2	6	13	16	13	22	14
6	21	20	11	1	4	11	13			
11	22	14	11	13						
18	19	13	21	6	12	13	16	13		
20	19	22	18	13	5	15				
10	5	13	2	11	16					
1	12	13	22							
19	8									
5	7	13	22	14	13					
17	6	15	9	20	6	16	16	6	17	