Learn by Doing

Choice Who Is My Neighbor?



The Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches that the Lord wants us to treat others with compassion and kindness. The Priest and the Levite ignored the injured man. The Samaritan tended his wounds and paid the innkeeper to look after him. The Samaritan is a true neighbor. Children will act the story out with book-in-hand theater.

1. Assign parts to children. *Note*: The parts require different levels of reading ability. The robbers, the innkeeper, and the disciples do not speak. The narrators, Jesus and the Lawyer have several lines each.
2. If you do not have enough children for the parts, you can double up on roles, condense the narrators’ parts into one, or omit the disciples.
3. Give the Samaritan the bag with bandages, two containers, and coins in it.
4. *Optional*: Distribute costumes. The Man on a Journey needs a piece of clothing the robbers can take off easily, such as a shawl or button up shirt. Give Jesus a white costume.
5. Hand out the scripts and help the students find their starting positions. Jesus, the disciples and the Lawyer stand at one end of the acting space. The three narrators stand on the other side. The innkeeper is in the inn. The other characters are off-stage, ready to enter on their cues.
6. If the students are interested, repeat the play with children taking different roles.

Materials Needed

Who Is My Neighbor? pp. 2-3 for each student
props: ace bandages or strips of cloth, two small containers, a few coins, bag, *optional:* rope to outline roadway
optional costumes: t-shirts turned inside out, button up shirts, bathrobes, shawls, scarves for robbers

Prepare in Advance

Read through the script. Decide how to set up your acting space. You may wish to mark the two sides of the road using rope or string and indicate the inn with chairs. Gather props. *Optional*: gather costumes.

New Church Concept
Loving Others

A person is born that he may become charity; but he cannot become charity unless he perpetually does the good of use to the neighbor from affection and delight. *Charity* 126

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Who Is My Neighbor?

Speaking Characters: 1st Narrator, 2nd Narrator, 3rd Narrator, Jesus, Lawyer, Samaritan

Non-Speaking Characters: Man on a Journey, Robbers (any number), Priest, Levite, Disciples (any number), Innkeeper

Optional Props: ace bandages or strips of cloth, two small containers, a few coins, bag, rope to mark roadway

Optional Costumes: large t-shirts, scarves for robbers, shawls, bathrobes, etc.

Set-up: Create an inn at one side of the acting space, outlining it with chairs. With rope or string, outline the road leading from the other side of the stage to the inn.

The scene opens with Jesus standing up teaching to the Disciples and the Lawyer who are sitting around Him at one end of the acting area. The three narrators stand off to the other side by the "inn".

1st Narrator: And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him.

Lawyer: *The Lawyer stands up, facing Jesus.*
Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Jesus: *Jesus answers calmly.*
What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?

Lawyer: *The Lawyer responds, putting his hand on his heart.*
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus: *Jesus nods.*
You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.

Lawyer: *The Lawyer puts his hands on his hips.*
And who is my neighbor?

2nd Narrator: *Jesus and Lawyer*
Then Jesus answered and said….
Jesus and the Lawyer sit down.

3rd Narrator: *Man on a Journey Robbers*
A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.
The Man on a Journey starts to walk down the road. The robbers rush out, pretend to hit him, and pull off his costume. The Man falls down at the side of the road. The robbers leave.

1st Narrator: *Priest*
Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.
The Priest walks down the road. When he sees the hurt man, he turns and walks along the other side of the road.

Who Is My Neighbor? *continued*

2nd Narrator:
Levite

Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

The Levite walks down the road. When he sees the hurt man, he walks over and looks down at him. Then he turns and walks away on the other side of the road.

3rd Narrator:
Samaritan

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.

The Samaritan walks down the road. When he sees the hurt man, he hurries and kneels beside him.

1st Narrator:
Samaritan

So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine;

The Samaritan opens his bag and takes out the containers and bandages. He pretends to pour oil and vinegar from the jars over the injured man. Then he rolls a bandage around one of the injured man's arms or legs.

2nd Narrator:
Samaritan
Innkeeper

and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

The Samaritan helps the man get up and supports him to the inn. The man lies down inside the inn where the innkeepers are.

3rd Narrator:
Samaritan
Innkeeper

On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper.

The Samaritan hands two coins to the innkeeper.

The Samaritan points to the hurt man and speaks. Then he walks away.

Samaritan:
Innkeeper

Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.

The innkeeper sits down.

Jesus:
Jesus and Lawyer

Jesus and the Lawyer both stand up.

So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among thieves?

Lawyer:

He who showed mercy on him.

Jesus:

Jesus gestures to the Lawyer.

Go and do likewise.

The Lawyer walks away and the play ends.