

“I Was a Stranger...”

The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:29-37

Level C

Ages 11-14

Series Theme: You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.

Lesson Focus: The neighbor we are to love is the Lord’s goodness that is with each person.

Reading Summary: Jesus said, “A man went from Jerusalem to Jericho. Thieves met him on the road, took his clothes, wounded him, and left him half dead. A priest came down the road, saw him, and passed by on the other side. A Levite also came and saw him and passed by on the other side. But when a Samaritan saw him, he had compassion and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He put him on his animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. When the Samaritan left he paid the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more I will pay you when I return.’” Jesus asked, “Which of these was neighbor.” The lawyer said, “He who showed mercy.” Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.”

Lesson 3		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	Activity	Alphabet Cards directions p.2 <i>Alphabet Cards</i> , p. 5	pens or pencils
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	see <i>Reading Summary</i> above discussion guide p. 2	Bible or copy of Luke 10:29-37
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Explore discover how a natural desire to be compassionate can become spiritual, and make goals to be of service to others	True Compassion directions p. 3 <i>A Picture of Compassion</i> p. 6 <i>Setting Goals for Acting with Compassion</i> p. 7	pencils or pens, markers or colored pencils
	Act It Out discover the differences between acting from truth and acting from love through skits	Oil and Wine directions p. 3-4 <i>Oil and Wine</i> skits pp. 8-9	paper for printing, space to act
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Take the Message Home introduce the quotation for the week	Take Home Cards p. 10	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Alphabet Getting to Know You?

Supplies Needed: 1 *Alphabet Card* (p. 5) for each person, pens or pencils

Students will get to know each other by sharing basic things about themselves. Start by distributing *Alphabet Cards*, and pens or pencils.

Students will complete cards by asking each other questions. Each thing must fit into an alphabet category, e.g. Katie broke her **a**rm. Chelsea plays **b**asketball. Ben's favorite **c**andy is Twix. Nathan's **d**ad is a mailman. Put the person's name and information on the same line. Use the same person no more than four times.

Set a 2-3 minute time limit. When the time is up, have each person share one interesting discovery about another person.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: Luke 10:29-37

Last time we talked about a woman from Samaria. What relationship did Jews and Samaritans have with each other? Jews did not like Samaritans even though they were distantly related. In today's story the Lord uses the relationship between the Jews and the Samaritans to teach the real meaning of the "neighbor".

The story starts with a man walking from Jerusalem (in the hills) to Jericho (in the valley). Craggy rocks lined the road. Robbers hid there, waiting to ambush people. The journey the man took is like the mental journey we take when we have been thinking about higher spiritual things, for example the Lord or our ideals, and then we go back to thinking about our daily lives.

What kinds of mental "robbers" look for us on this journey? Evil spirits try to rob us of our high ideals, inspiring false thoughts and selfish desires instead. **The robbers stole the man's garments. Garments mean true ideas and loving thoughts from the Word.**

A priest and a Levite saw the injured man and walked by on the other side. They knew what the Word said about loving the neighbor. When might we act like the priest and Levite? When we know what is right but do not do it when the opportunity comes up.

How did the Samaritan help? He saw what was needed, had compassion, treated the man's wounds and took him to an inn where he could get well. **The Samaritan represents a simple desire to do good things.**

What do the oil and wine that the Samaritan used correspond to? Love and spiritual truth.

Why was the Samaritan "neighbor" to the man? He helped him. Also, because the Samaritan was a good man. **The neighbor we are to love is the goodness in others. We can know what good is when we know what truth is, because goodness is *truth in action* in our lives.**

Why is it important to know who the neighbor is? So we can truly love others. **Truly loving others means loving the goodness in a person. The neighbor we are to love and serve is what is good in other people.**

What makes a person a "stranger"? A stranger is someone who does not know the Lord, in other words is a stranger to what is true and good. **We show kindness to strangers by sharing the messages from the Word and by treating them with kindness.**

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice True Compassion

“Compassion” means having empathy for someone in need. The Writings tell us that compassion is “an influx of charity” from the Lord, and that when a person who loves the Lord feels compassion, he knows that the Lord is alerting him to help (see *Arcana Coelestia* 6737). The natural compassion a person feels becomes spiritual when it is put into practice in accordance with genuine charity (see *True Christianity* 428). This activity explores compassion and ways to practice compassion at home and in the community.



1. Start by distributing *A Picture of Compassion* (p. 6) and drawing materials. Ask the students to draw what comes to mind when they think of the word “compassion”.
2. Invite students to share their pictures with the class and explain how they pictured “compassion”.
3. The Writings tell us that the Lord is the source of compassion. He gives everyone this feeling. People who have faith in the Lord receive compassionate feelings as an alert to help others.
4. It is natural to want to help everyone who is in need, but *True Christianity* 428 warns us to think before we act. We need to ask whether the person who is in need is “good or bad”. If we help without reflecting on whether a person intends good or evil we might actually be promoting evil by helping a person who wants to hurt others. We could be “handing an enemy a sword with which he may kill someone”. We do not know what others are thinking, but we can get some idea of what a person is like by noticing what they do.
5. So who should we treat with compassion? This is like asking, “Who is the neighbor we are to love?” We are to love what is good in others from the Lord.
6. Give each student a copy of *Setting Goals for Acting with Compassion* (p. 7). Have them complete the page, setting achievable goals.

Choice Oil and Wine

The Samaritan used oil and wine as medicines to treat the injured man’s wounds. Olive oil is the purest fat available; bacteria cannot live in it. It can aid the healing of cuts and scratches. Wine can be used as an antiseptic and is safer than unpurified water. Spiritually, oil stands for “love to the Lord” and wine stands for “truth” (see *Apocalypse Explained* 375-6). The

Materials Needed for Each Student

A Picture of Compassion p. 6, *Setting Goals for Acting with Compassion* p. 7, pencil or pen, magic markers or colored pencils

New Church Concept Compassion

Those who are by nature compassionate, and do not make their natural compassion spiritual by putting it into practice in accordance with genuine charity, believe that charity consists in giving to every poor person...without first inquiring whether the poor or needy person is good or bad; for they say that this is not necessary.... But after death these are set apart from those who have done the works of charity from prudence; for those who have done them from that blind idea of charity, then do good to bad and good alike, and with the aid of what is done for them the wicked do evil and thereby injure the good. *True Christianity* 428

Materials Needed

Oil and Wine pp. 8-9, space for the group to act skits

Prepare in Advance

Print *Oil and Wine* skits and cut apart.



Oil and Wine *continued*

Samaritan was “neighbor” to the injured man, treating him with spiritual as well as natural loving kindness. Students will explore ways of treating others in need through role play. Twelve skit scenarios are provided offering various choices for treating a person with “oil” (love) and / or “wine” (truth).



1. How many different kinds of wounds can you think of? Give examples—physical, mental, and spiritual.
2. The good Samaritan used oil and wine to treat the injured man’s wounds. Oil corresponds to love to the Lord. Why is love important for healing? (Love prompts us to soothe and comfort, e.g. treating a person with loving-kindness.)
3. Wine corresponds to truth. Why is truth important for healing? (Truth shows us what needs to be done, e.g. clean a wound. Without cleaning, wounds become infected.)
4. Why are both love and truth needed for healing?
5. We will act out skits about the ways “oil” and “wine” or “love” and “truth” are used to help others overcome difficult situations. Each skit gives three possible ways to handle a situation. Prepare to act your scenario three times—with a different ending each time.
6. Divide students into groups of two or three. Assign a skit to each group, or let groups choose a skit. Give groups a few minutes to prepare, then gather students for presentations to the entire group. Stop the action after each of the three endings and ask the students to comment on the choices being made. For example,
 - Will this make the situation better or worse?
 - How would you feel if that was you?
 - Does this tell the truth about the situation in a loving way?
 - Is this a loving way to respond, but not very helpful in the long run?
7. What are the advantages or disadvantages of being truthful without being loving, or being loving without being truthful?

4. Wrap It Up

Take the Message Home

Read this quotation aloud: “Why should You be like a stranger in the land...? You, O Lord, are in our midst, and we are called by Your name...” (Jeremiah 14:8,9). In the story, the injured man was a stranger to all three men who saw him lying on the road. He remained a stranger to the first two, because only the third man invited him into his life by caring for him.

Sometimes it feels as if the Lord is a stranger to us. But we know He is always with us, whether we notice Him or not. But just as we can set out to become friends with another person who once seemed like a stranger, we can work on coming to know the Lord better as well by inviting Him into our thoughts and hearts. What are some ways that we can come to know the Lord better? (in His Word, in the love of people around us, in the beauty of nature, in prayer)

Give *Take Home Cards* (two per page, p. 10) to the students as they leave and suggest they put them up where they will see them this week.

Alphabet Card

A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____
E. _____
F. _____
G. _____
H. _____

I. _____
J. _____
K. _____
L. _____
M. _____
N. _____
O. _____
P. _____

Alphabet Card

A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____
E. _____
F. _____
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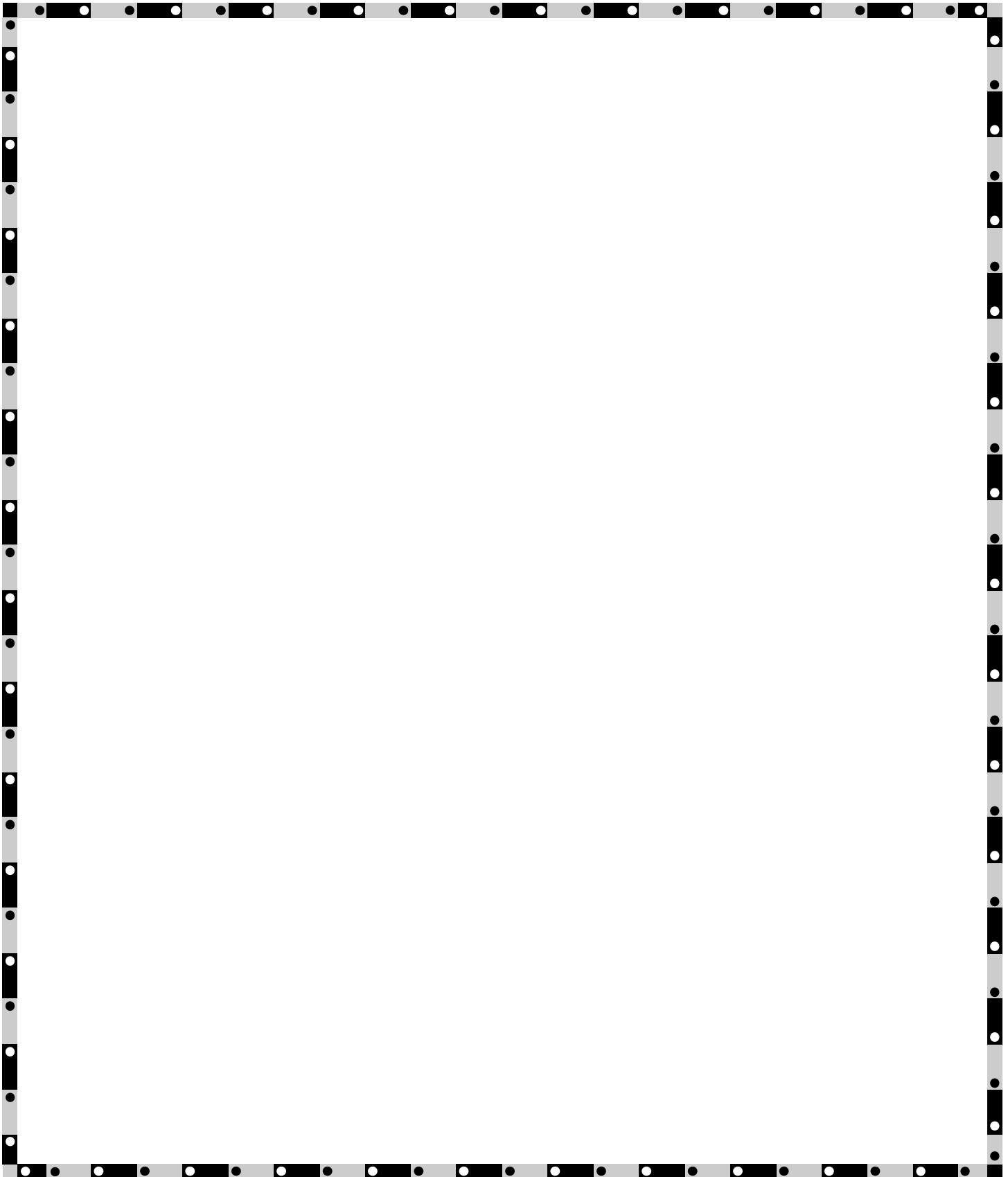
Alphabet Card

A. _____
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E. _____
F. _____
G. _____
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A Picture of Compassion

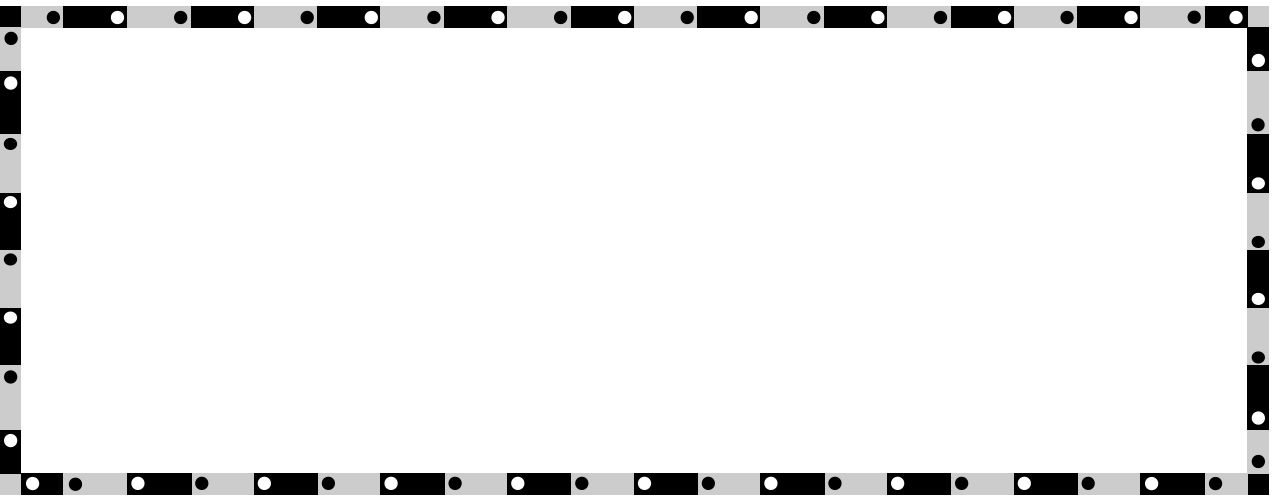
What comes to mind when you think of the word *compassion*? Draw a picture that you feel best shows compassion.



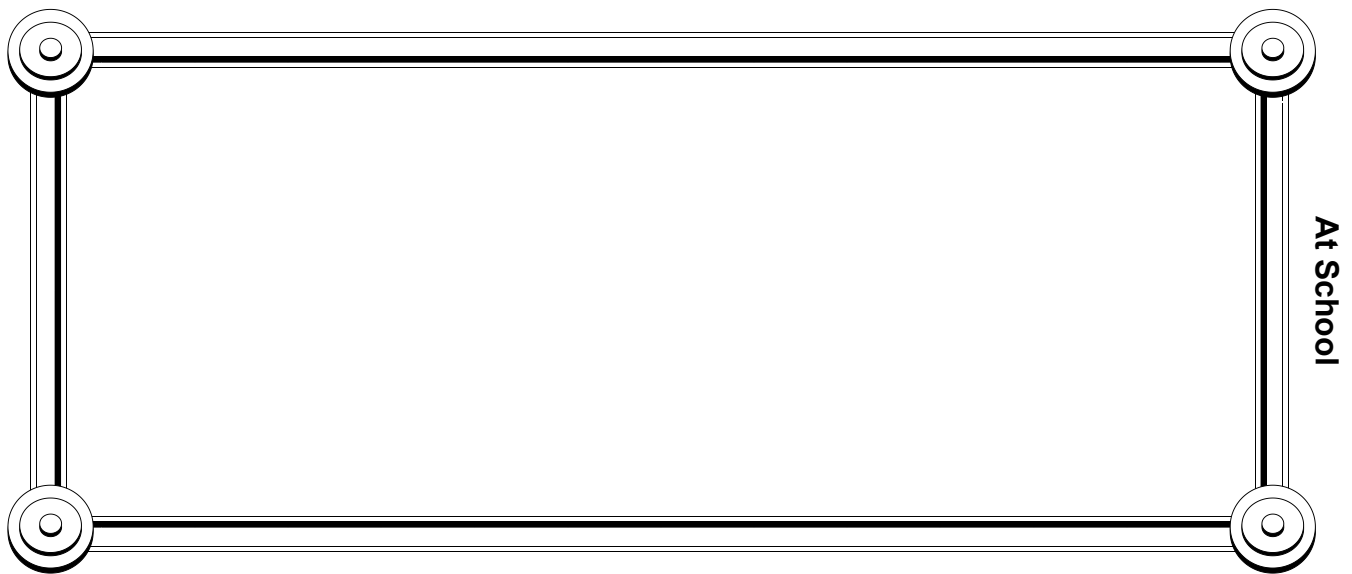
Setting Goals for Acting with Compassion

Set goals for yourself for acting with compassion and kindness to other people. Write one goal in each rectangle. Think about how you can accomplish each goal—be specific. Make plans to act on each goal this week.

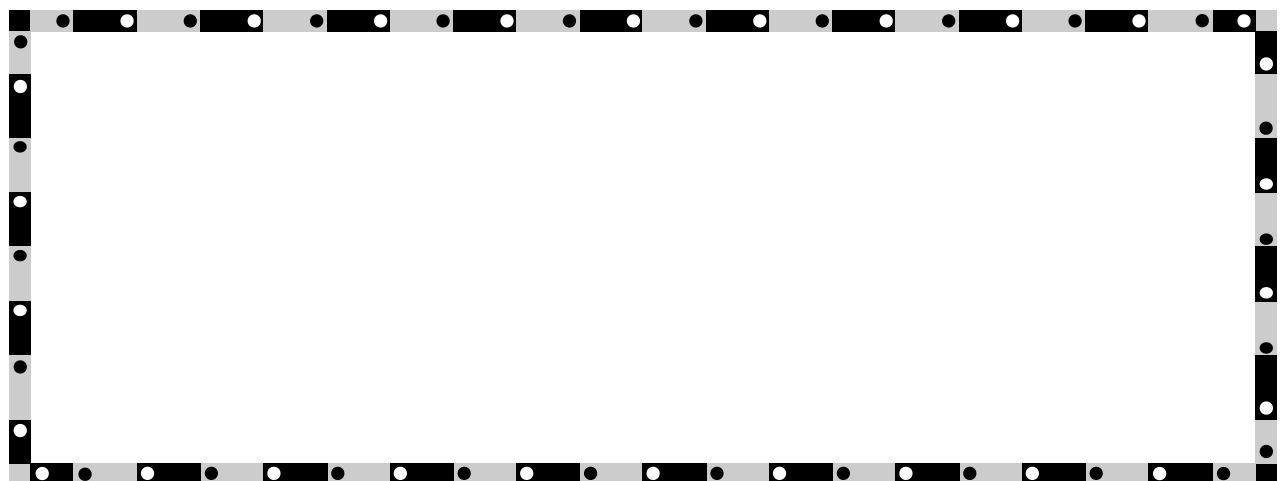
At Home



At School



In My Community



Oil and Wine

Three's a Crowd

You are going for a long-expected walk with a friend. Someone you know who is slightly awkward sees you, hurries to catch up, and tries to join you.

1. Tell her that you are having a private conversation and ask that she does not listen in.
2. Slow down for the person and change your conversation to include her since she doesn't have many friends.
3. Quickly go around a corner and hide so that she cannot see where you have gone.

Movie Night

A group of friends goes to the movies and intentionally excludes a boy who wanted to be part of the group. He finds out and is very upset.

1. Tell him the decision had nothing to do with you and you couldn't do anything about it.
2. Apologize for not speaking up. Tell him he is justified in feeling angry about it.
3. Listen to his anger and upset. Offer to go and see the movie again with him.

Clothing Mistake

Someone comes to school and is accidentally wearing an article of clothing inside out.

1. Take him aside and mention it privately so he/she can fix it.
2. Have a good laugh! Point the mistake out to others because he looks so funny.
3. Ignore it, even though others are laughing at him/her behind his back.

Always the Last Picked

As captain of a team in PE you get to pick who is on your team. One girl is really awkward so she always gets left until the last pick and this upsets her.

1. Since your team will probably lose if you pick her, wait until you have a strong team and then pick her.
2. Winning isn't the point of the game, it's having fun. Pick her first and ignore the comments of others.
3. Ignore her. Your job is to build a strong team. She's a bad fit and would cause problems.

I Could Do Better

You have many talents. You write and draw very well. You are doing a group project with people who are not as gifted as you. You think the girl who is drawing the pictures is doing a terrible job.

1. Tell her the pictures need fixing and offer to re-do them.
2. Change the pictures while she isn't looking. Tell her what a great job she did later.
3. Stop and think about your classmate and accept that this is her best work. Acknowledge the best elements of her efforts.

Goalie's Fault?

In the last half of a tough game the score was even. Right before the final bell the opposing team scored on your goal and your team lost. Your goalie is upset.

1. Tell him he should have asked for more help to block the goal.
2. Talk to your teammates about better strategies for assisting the goalie.
3. Remind the goalie that each game is a team effort. Everyone has a part to play in keeping the ball away from the goal. He is not completely responsible.

Oil and Wine, *continued*

Group Project

You have been assigned a group project in school. Your project will receive one shared grade. You want to do well. Others in your group don't care and have put no effort into it. It is due tomorrow and looks bad.

1. Take the project home and work all night to get it the way you want it to be.
2. Let the group know how much you care. Invite everyone to your house to work together to improve it.
3. Do your best on your part and point out to your teacher that you were the only one who did what they were asked.

Broken Ankle

A friend was warming up for a club gymnastics meet. Impatient, she started practicing before the spotter arrived. She took a bad fall from the equipment and broke her ankle.

1. Tell her she let her team down. If she'd waited, her team would have won the event and gone on to the championships.
2. Go to visit her. Listen sympathetically as she tells her story.
3. As your teammates criticize her, remind them that we all make mistakes.

New School

After a mid-year break there is a new student in your class. He wears weird clothes and is very quiet.

1. Introduce yourself. Let him know you're happy to help him if he has questions.
2. Ask him where he moved from and what his last school was like. Invite him to sit with you and introduce him to your friends.
3. When your friends whisper about him behind his back, laugh with them. Later, you can tell him they were just being stupid.

Auditions

Everyone auditioning for the spring musical has to dance in a small group in front of an audience. A friend messes up each time the dance changes direction. She leaves the stage in tears.

1. Tell her it really doesn't matter. Only a few girls will be picked for the dance chorus anyway.
2. Listen to her frustration. Offer to help her later.
3. Congratulate her for going out in front of all the people—it takes guts. Help her see how funny she looked and have a laugh with her.

Super Sib

Your parents are always praising you. You are good looking, a talented athlete, draw and paint well, and are friendly to everyone. Your sister is jealous and says she hates you.

1. Tell your sibling you really admire the way she works hard. Talents don't make you a great person; it's what you do with them that does.
2. Look for opportunities to praise your sibling.
3. Secretly do something kind for her.

Hurt Feelings

Your friend is really upset by something another person has said.

1. Tell him it can't be all that bad—he is still walking and talking.
2. Stop what you are doing. Invite your friend to come and sit down with you. Give him the space to be sad and let him know you care about his hurt feelings.
3. Ask him what happened.



"I Was a Stranger"

Read: Why should You be like a stranger in the land...? You, O Lord, are in our midst, and we are called by Your name.... Jeremiah 14:8,9

Reflect: In the story, the injured man was a stranger to all three men who saw him lying on the road. He remained a stranger to the first two, because they chose to ignore him instead of helping. Only the third man, the Samaritan, cared enough to invite him into his life by caring for him.

Sometime it can feel as if the Lord is a stranger to us—someone we don't know very well. But it doesn't need to stay that way. In part of our mind, we know that the Lord is always with us, whether we notice Him or not. But just as we can set out to become friends with a person who once seemed like a stranger, we can work on coming to know the Lord better as well. He truly is with us—in our midst—and we are all His people.

Respond: Each of us can work to invite the Lord into our thoughts and our heart. We can get to know Him better by seeing Him in His Word and in people around us. We can recognize His work in the beauty of nature, and talk to Him about our own life in prayer.

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