

# Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 497-505

Jake sat down in an empty chair in the Sabbath School room. The other children were talking together, but Jake sat alone. He didn't know anyone. He felt out of place. No one spoke to him. His family had just arrived from a faraway country. He spoke with an accent. It hurt to be lonely. Why wouldn't anyone speak to him?

In today's Bible lesson Jesus told a story about a man who was hurting and needed help. Who would pay attention to him?

The young lawyer stood up. He straightened his belt and cleared his throat. "Teacher, what shall I do to have eternal life?"

"What do the scriptures say?" asked Jesus.

"That I should love God with all of my heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love my neighbor as much as I love myself," the lawyer replied.

"You're right," Jesus said. "Keep doing these things, and eternal life is yours."

"But just who is my neighbor?" questioned the young man.

"Let me tell you a story," said Jesus, smiling.

"Once there was a man who left Jerusalem to travel to Jericho. Along the way, robbers attacked him. They beat him. They took his money and clothes, and left him lying in the hot

sun, half dead.

"It just so happened that a Jewish priest was traveling the same way. A little later he came to the place where the injured man was lying. Quickly he looked away. He may have thought, *Oh, no! That man's in great pain! I can't tell if he's a Jew or not—I'd better hurry on.* And the priest crossed to the other side of the road and went on his way.

"Soon a Levite who worked in the Temple came by. Curious, he stopped to look at the wounded man. *Poor man, he may have thought, he looks terrible. I really ought to help him. But I don't want to get involved. I wish I hadn't*



## The Message

Everyone is included  
in God's love.

come this way. Surely someone else will help him.  
And the Levite hurried on down the road.

"It wasn't long until a Samaritan came by."  
Jesus looked around. He knew that the Jewish  
people hated the Samaritans.

But He continued. "The Samaritan felt sorry  
for the poor man and stopped right away to  
help him. He gave him water. He put medicine  
on the man's wounds. He gently helped him  
up on his own donkey.

"Carefully he took the injured man to the  
nearest inn, where he stayed with him through  
the night. In the morning he gave the innkeeper  
money to take care of the hurt man. 'Let me  
know if that isn't enough,' said the Samaritan.

## Memory Verse

" 'Love the Lord your  
God with all your  
heart' . . . and, 'Love  
your neighbor as  
yourself' "

(Luke 10:27).

'I'll gladly pay you more when I come this way  
again.' "

Jesus looked into the young lawyer's eyes.  
"Now, my friend," He quietly asked, "which  
of the three was a neighbor to the wounded  
man?"

"The one who helped him," the young  
man answered quietly.

Jesus spoke kindly, "Go now,  
and be that kind of neighbor!"

Today Jesus asks us to  
be good neighbors too. In  
God's eyes, every person  
is equal. Every person is  
someone to be loved  
and accepted—no  
matter where they  
come from, how  
they sound when  
they speak, or  
the color of their  
skin. This week,  
ask Jesus to make  
your heart like His.  
Ask Him to help  
you show His love  
to your neighbor.





## S A B B A T H

**DO** If possible, go with your family and follow a path or narrow road for a while. Sit in a quiet spot and read your Bible story. Imagine that you are the man who was traveling to Jericho. How do you feel about “Samaritans”—people who are different from you? Ask God to help you be a friend to all people.

**READ** Read Luke 10:27 together before you pray.

**SING** Sing “Cross Over the Road” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 131).

## S U N D A Y

**READ** For family worship, read and discuss Luke 10:25-29 together. Teach your memory verse to your family.

**DO** Read Song of Solomon 2:4. Make a “Banner of Love.” (See directions on page 22 of the Bible study guide.)

**SING** Sing “His Banner Over Me Is Love” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 25). Thank God for people who care about you. Ask Him to make you a caring person.

## M O N D A Y

**READ** At family worship, read and discuss Luke 10:30-37 together. Then tell the story in your own words. Ask Jesus to help you become a good Samaritan.

**DO** Use the code to unscramble the memory verse.

Z = L   O = M   X = A

Zmve the zmrd ymur Gmd with xzz ymur hexrt. Zmve ymur neighbmur xs ymursezf. Zuke 10:27.

**SING** Sing “Give Me Oil in My Lamp” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 132).

## T U E S D A Y

**READ** During family worship today, read and discuss John 13:34, 35. Say your memory verse together.

**DO** The Samaritan helped someone who was not his friend. Think of someone you know who is not a best friend. Ask your parents if you can invite them to do something special with you. Say a special prayer for them. Have you given away the “You are included in God’s love” card you made in Sabbath School?

Jerusalem was 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Jericho. The road was steep, twisted, and rocky.



## W E D N E S D A Y

**READ** In the Bible we read about people who became really good friends, even though they were not alike. During worship, read the texts, then unscramble their names.

Ruth 1:15, 16      turh and aimno

1 Samuel 19:1, 3    vidad and thananoj

2 Timothy 4:11    luap and kmar

**DO** Say your memory verse to an adult. Pray for someone who is different from you in some way.

# THURSDAY

**SHARE** During family worship, role-play a situation in which a new child comes to your Sabbath School. They are not dressed up, and their clothes are dirty. You are the greeter. What will you say?

**READ** Read and discuss Romans 14:13. Sing "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 139).

**DO** Say your memory verse before prayer. Ask God to help you accept all people, even though they may not accept you.

# FRIDAY

**SHARE** For worship today, act out your lesson story with your whole family. What have you learned from this lesson?

**DO** Give the people in your family a hug. Tell them how much you love them. Sing "Love at Home" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 137). Read Galatians 6:10 together before prayer.

**DRAW** Draw something to illustrate the memory verse and explain it to your family. Then say the verse together.

## Who Is My Neighbor? PUZZLE

Directions: Circle the ways you can help your neighbor.

