

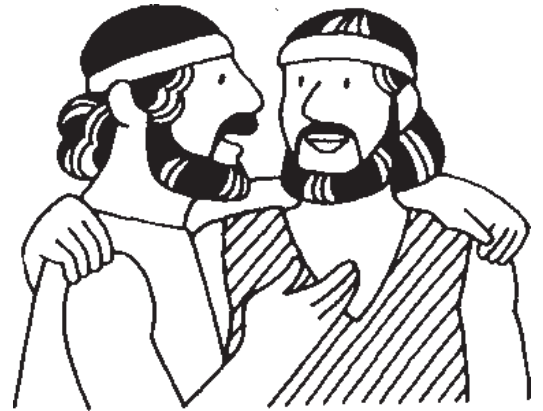
LOVE

LESSON 3

Loving our Neighbour

One day a man set out on a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho. It was a very long, hot journey and he was walking and all alone. There were not many people along the dry, dusty road and I imagine he was looking forward to getting to Jericho as soon as possible.

However, far up the roadway, some wicked people were hiding. They could hear the lonely man as he came along and at the right moment, rushed out and grabbed him, wounding him and robbing him of all he had, even his clothes. They left him lying on the ground in the hot sun, half dead.



By chance, a priest came along the road. He saw the man lying helplessly there, perhaps calling out for water. Perhaps he was worried that the man would die and then that would make him unclean for seven days. He didn't want that, so he crossed over to the other side of the road and went by.

Just then, a Levite came along. He took one look at the poor, injured man and quickly turned his head away and walked by pretending he hadn't seen him. Perhaps he had an important appointment at the Temple in Jerusalem. He just couldn't stop -- someone else could.

And then, along the road came a Samaritan. There was a lot of hostility between the Jews and the Samaritans. The Samaritans were descendants of pagan people brought there by the Assyrians after they conquered Israel. They had intermarried with the people of Israel who were left in the land or returned later. When the Jews returned to rebuild Jerusalem, they would not let the surrounding people help or worship at the Temple. So, the Samaritans built their own Temple in Samaria and there was an ongoing sometimes violent disagreement about which was the true Temple.

The Samaritan wasn't likely to help a Jew, but help he did. He had compassion on him. He bound up his wounds and put him on his own donkey. He brought him to an inn and took care of him, paying the innkeeper money to buy whatever the man needed to get better.

Jesus told this story to remind us that anyone is our neighbour. We are to show God's love to everyone, even those who are our enemies. *"Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: but I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust."* (Matthew 5:43-45)

Student Name: _____

WORKSHEET 3: LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR

ANSWERS FROM THE BIBLE:

What was the question that prompted the story of the good Samaritan? (Luke 10:29)

What was the final answer to this question? (Luke 10:37)

Do you think the good Samaritan went beyond what would have been expected? Explain.

WORD STUDY:

Look up the word "neighbour" and find where it occurs in the book of Proverbs. Look up these verses and write out some of the things it says about how you should treat a neighbour.

APPLICATION:

Who is your "neighbour"? What are some things that you could do to show love to these people? Come up with at least three ideas.
