

# Year C - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Luke 10:25-37

*Who is my neighbour?*



An expert in the Law of Moses stood up and asked Jesus a question to see what he would say. "Teacher," he asked, "What must I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "What is written in the Scriptures? How do you understand them?"



The man replied, "The Scriptures say, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.' They also say, 'Love your neighbours as much as you love yourself.' "

Jesus said, "You have given the right answer. If you do this, you will have eternal life." But the man wanted to show that he knew what he was talking about. So he asked Jesus, "Who are my neighbours?"

Jesus replied: "As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, robbers attacked him and grabbed everything he had. They beat him up and ran off, leaving him half dead. "A priest happened to be going down the same road. But when he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. Later a temple helper came to the same place. But when he saw the man who had been beaten up, he also went by on the other side.

"A man from Samaria then came travelling along that road. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him and went over to him. He treated his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put him on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next morning he gave the innkeeper two silver coins and said, 'Please take care of the man. If you spend more than this on him, I will pay you when I return.' "

Then Jesus asked, "Which of these three people was a real neighbour to the man who was beaten up by robbers?"

The teacher answered, "The one who showed pity."

Jesus said, "Go and do the same!"

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## Luke 10:25-37

Show kindness to your neighbours



**Introduction** This gospel is a parable (a story with a message) that helps us to think about how to love others as he loves. An important part of understanding this parable is understanding the characters and setting of the story (to help with this it may be useful to have some simple props to represent the characters and the setting, you could use 'show time' activity to help).

**Message** Begin by looking for clues in the scripture text to see where this parable is happening and who is in the story.

Where: DOWN from JERUSALEM to JERICHO

- Explain the following things:
  - Jerusalem was the place where the temple was as well as a place where people would sell their goods.
  - The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was almost 30km and it was a very difficult road that led from a semi-dry area down in elevation to an extremely barren place. People listening to Jesus would have known how dangerous it was.

Who: MAN, PRIEST, TEMPLE HELPER, SAMARITAN

- Man - we can assume that he was a Jewish man
- Priest - someone who helped the people follow God; someone who had responsibilities in the temple but was going down/leaving Jerusalem so would therefore have been finished any temple duties.
- Temple helper - as for the priest
- Samaritan - someone from another place (Samaria), Jews and Samaritans did not get along with each other



**Discussion** Once you have established the background with the children, go step by step through the parable (you may find props helpful here):

- Would the people listening have expected the Priest to stop and help in Jesus story? (Yes) Why?
- Would the people listening have expected the Temple helper to stop and help in Jesus story? (Yes) Why?
- Would the people listening have expected the Samaritan to stop and help in Jesus story? (No) Why? (because he was a Samaritan and Jews and Samaritans did not get along with each other).
- When Jesus says 'Do the same', what does he mean? (To show kindness and mercy to ALL other people)