**EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

**NEIGHBOURS**

**EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY’S THEME**

***Introducing the Gospel***

*Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)*

This reading presents the classic summary of the law, ‘You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself.’ Here the words are spoken by a teacher of the law. In Matthew 22: 37-40 the words are spoken by Jesus himself. Luke goes on to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan in response to the further question, ‘Who is my neighbour?’ In this parable the traveller is ambushed and left for dead. The priest and Levite pass by; after all contact with a corpse would have made them ritually unclean. The Samaritan who helps is a foreigner and an outcast. Jesus tells us to follow that Samaritan’s example.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke’s parable of the Good Samaritan is *neighbours*.

***Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 10: 30, 33-34; for reflection throughout the week)***

Jesus replied,

‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho,

and fell into the hands of robbers,

who stripped him, beat him, and went away,

leaving him half dead.

But a Samaritan while travelling came near him;

and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.

He went to him and bandaged his wounds,

having poured oil and wine on them.

Then he put him on his own animal,

brought him to an inn, and took care of him.’

***Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)***

Lord Jesus Christ,

you teach your disciples

to follow the example of the good Samaritan.

Help us to respond to the needs of others,

with sensitivity, generosity and care,

that we may show your love to the world;

for you are our God.

Amen.

**READING NEXT SUNDAY’S GOSPEL**

**Luke 10: 25-37**

**The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

**ENGAGING WITH THE THEME**

***Dwelling with the text (Luke 10: 25-37)***

Begin to explore Luke’s parable of the Good Samaritan by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

* What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
* What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
* What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
* What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

***Thinking and talking***

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

* How do you understand the questions asked by the lawyer?
* Why does Jesus bring the priest and the Levite into the story?
* What was the significance of bringing a Samaritan into the story?
* How do you read the punchline of this parable?
* What does this narrative say for us today?

***Using your Bible***

Explore how Luke inserts this parable into his source Mark.

* Mark 10: 17-22

Explore how Matthew developed Mark’s text.

* Matthew 19: 16-22
* Matthew 22: 34-39

Explore related ideas in the Old Testament.

* Deuteronomy 6: 4-5
* Leviticus 19: 18

Explore other references to Samaria in Luke – Acts.

* Luke 9: 52-55
* Luke 17: 11-18
* Acts 1: 6-8
* Acts 8: 14-17

***Exploring online***

Widen your exploration of Luke’s parable of the Good Samaritan by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

* Samaria and Samaritans in Luke – Acts
* Acts 8: 14-17
* Levites in the Bible

***Drawing on experience***

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke’s parable of the Good Samaritan is *neighbours.* Draw on your own experience of neighbours. For example:

* How diverse is your neighbourhood?
* Who is vulnerable or marginalised in your neighbourhood?
* What evidence is there of Good Samaritans in your neighbourhood?

What have you learned about neighbours?

***Creating and making***

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke’s parable of the Good Samaritan or by the image of neighbours.

* Make a collage telling the parable of the Good Samaritan.
* Make a poster illustrating diversity and inclusion within your neighbourhood.
* Make a display of Good Samaritans at work in your neighbourhood.
* Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the Good Samaritan or the image of neighbours.



**EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel.

We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary’s Centre in Wales.



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