

## A Neighbour's a Neighbour



**Theme:** Parable of the Good Samaritan - Proper 10 (15) Year C

**Object:** "Horton Hears a Who!" by Dr. Seuss

**Scripture:** The Parable of the Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

Do you like to read? I am a great fan of Dr. Seuss. I love his books. Of all the wonderful characters Dr. Seuss has created, my very favorite is Horton the Elephant. Horton is such a kind and compassionate character. I think we all could learn a lot from Horton.

The book I have today is called "Horton Hears a Who!" At the beginning of the story, Horton was splashing around in a cool jungle pool when he heard a small voice crying for help. He looked all around, but he did not see anyone. All he saw was a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. Horton realized that there was someone on that speck of dust who was calling for help. As it turned out, there was a whole town of people on that little speck of dust. They were calling out for help because they were afraid that the speck of dust would fall into the pool of water and they would drown. Even though they were so small that he couldn't even see them, Horton made up his mind that he was going to help them. "After all," he said, "A person's a person, no matter how small."

All of the other animals in the jungle thought Horton was crazy. First, a kangaroo, then some monkeys, and finally an eagle all made fun of Horton for wanting to help the people on the speck of dust. Why, they even tried to put Horton in a cage.

Even though none of the other animals would help him, Horton refused to give up. He remained faithful to the task of saving the tiny people who needed his help. Because of his faithfulness, the tiny people were saved and finally, the other animals realized that just as Horton had said, "A person's a person, no matter how small."

The story of Horton reminds me a little bit of our Bible story today. One day, a lawyer asked Jesus what he had to do to have eternal life. When Jesus asked him what the Bible said, the lawyer answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus answered, "You are right. Do this and you will live." Then the lawyer, wanting to justify himself, asked Jesus another question. "Who is my neighbor?" he asked.

To answer this question, Jesus told a story about a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers. They beat him, took his money, stripped him of his clothes, and left him beside the road to die.

A priest came by and when he saw the man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and continued on his way.

A little while later, a Levite who worked in the temple came along. He also saw the man lying there and passed by on the other side of the road.

Finally, a man from Samaria came along, and when he saw the man, he stopped to help him. He put medicine on his wounds and wrapped them with bandages. That isn't all. He took the man to an inn and took care of him. The next day, he gave the innkeeper some money and told him to take care of the man. "Give him anything he needs. If it costs more than I have given you, I will pay you

the next time I am here."

Then Jesus asked, "Which of these three men was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the robbers."

The lawyer answered, "The one who helped him."

"You are right," said Jesus, "now you go and do the same."

Jesus has told us to love our neighbor. If you have trouble knowing who your neighbor is, just remember the story of "Horton Hears a Who!" and the story of the Good Samaritan -- then you will know that every person is your neighbor and "A neighbor's a neighbor, no matter how small!"

Dear Father, help us to love you with all our hearts and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Works Cited: Geisel, Theodore Seuss. Horton Hears a Who. New York:Random House, 1954. Print.

**DRINK OF WATER RELAY:** Divide the class into teams. Each child must take his turn to run to the water table and drink a small paper cup of water or juice and then run back to the team for the next player to make the drink run. Continue until all the team has had a chance to drink the small cup of water or juice.

**BAND-AID RELAY:** Divide the class into teams. Each team will take turns for each player to run to the FIRST AID TABLE and will grab a Band-Aid, unwrap it, and place it on the arm or leg and then run back to the team for the next player to do the same! (Children's Band-Aids with pictures on them will make the game more fun.)

**WORD SCRAMBLE:** Before classtime, the teacher will hide pieces of paper with a scrambled word from today's lesson on each paper. (Suggestions: Samaritan, parable, neighbor, priest, Levite, lawyer, robbers, love.) The children will run to find a hidden word and bring it back to the table and try to UNSCRAMBLE the word. When the word is unscrambled, the child can write the correct word on the back side of the paper and quickly run to the GOOD SAMARITAN poster board and tape the word to the board. (The teacher may have children work separately or in groups of 2 if desired.)

**GOOD SAMARITAN WORD LIST:** Children can work together as a class or in groups of 2 or 3 or even alone for older children. See how many words the children can make from the letters found in GOOD SAMARITAN within a given time limit. When the time limit is up, let the children share their list of words with the rest of the class.

**L-O-V-E BRACELETS:** Children can make a bracelet out of letter beads and plastic string to remind them to LOVE others as Jesus loves them.

**SAMARITAN SKIT:** Choose a narrator and have the children act out today's Good Samaritan story with the man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho and being attacked by robbers. Some children could be the robbers. One child can be the priest who crossed over to the other side of the road and continued on his way, as well as one child being the Levite who ignored the hurt man. One child can be the GOOD SAMARITAN and one could be the innkeeper if there are enough children. One person can be Jesus telling the story and asking the final question. (You might like to use your smart phone to make a video of the skit or take some still photos of the children.)

**FIRST AID SAMARITAN BOXES:** Give each child a small box (A children's shoe box would do nicely.) Provide a small sponge and some paints. Have the children sponge-paint their box and allow it to dry. At the end of class, let children put some bandaids, cotton balls, q-tips, gauze, and a small sucker or a candy inside their box and write "FIRST AID TO HELP OTHERS" on the top of their box lid. Encourage children to help someone who may get hurt and to share the sucker to make them happy.

**BANDAID PEOPLE:** Give the children a several inexpensive band-aids to stick onto a piece of construction paper in the form of a stick person. The children will draw a head at the top of the vertical bandaid, hands at the end of the horizontal bandaid that form the arms, and feet at the bottom of the band-aids that form the legs. Tell children to write words from today's lesson around the bandaid people, such as caring, loving, kind, eternal life, heart, love, Jesus.

## Won't You Be My Neighbor?



**Theme:** Love your neighbor. Proper 10 (15) Year C

**Object:** A picture of "Mr. Rogers." ([Click Here](#))

**Scripture:** He answered: " '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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27 (NIV)

Perhaps you have heard of Fred Rogers. He is better known as "Mr. Rogers" and he once had a television show called "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." Every show began the same way. Mr. Rogers would enter his home, take off his jacket and shoes, and put on a sweater and comfortable tennis shoes while singing his theme song "Won't You Be My Neighbor." The song started out like this... (if possible, sing it)

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood  
A beautiful day for a neighbor  
Would you be mine  
Could you be mine

And it ended like this...

Won't you be my neighbor  
Won't you please, won't you please  
Please won't you be my neighbor

When Mr. Rogers died several years ago, he had millions of "neighbors" all over the world and, although he was quite famous, he never thought of himself as a TV star. He said, "I always thought I was a neighbor who just came in for a visit." Mr. Rogers knew what it meant to be a good neighbor.

One day, a lawyer asked Jesus what he had to do to have eternal life. When Jesus asked him what God's Law said, the lawyer answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus answered, "You are right. Do this and you will live." But the man wanted to make himself look good, so he asked Jesus another question. "Who is my neighbor?" he asked.

To answer this question, Jesus told a story about a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers. They beat him, took his money, stripped him of his clothes, and left him beside the road to die.

A priest came by and when he saw the man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and continued on his way.

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"Give him anything he needs. If it costs more than I have given you, I will pay you the next time I am here."

Then Jesus asked, "Which of these three men was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the robbers."

The lawyer answered, "The one who helped him."

"You are right," said Jesus, "now you go and do the same."

The world is full of people today who are in desperate need of a neighbor. "Won't you be my neighbor?" they ask. Just as the good Samaritan in the story helped the one in need, Jesus says to you and me, "Go and do the same."

Dear Jesus, you have taught us to love our neighbor. Help us to be a good neighbor to everyone we meet. Amen.

**HEART SHAPED POSTER:** Large heart-shaped red poster can be at the focal point of the classroom and as children arrive, they can add the heart stickers or glue on mini hearts around the poster and color in the words LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

**HEART NOTE TO NEIGHBOR:** Cut out 3 hearts for each child. Have children write a short note to a neighbor or someone they know on the top heart. Make small short strips of paper into "accordion" folded strips and glue between each heart to give the look of a "spring" between the hearts, so the hearts will stand up. Encourage children to give their heart note to a neighbor.

**NEIGHBOR HEARTS:** Cut out 3 hearts the same size. Place vertically and glue the top heart with the heart "point" facing down and the next 2 hearts upside down to look like the body. Color eyes and a smile on top heart. Print LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR or something else that Teacher will suggest and give your heart away to a neighbor. (This will look almost like a heart bookmark when glued in a vertical line with heart tips touching each other.)

**NEIGHBOR SKIT:** Children could practice this in class and then do for the congregation during the church service, if desired. One child could begin the skit by putting on the tennis shoes and sweater like Mr Roger's did and say, "Won't you be my neighbor or sing the song), and then children can begin the skit of our story today about the good Samaritan. At the end of the skit, children could recite in unison - LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.... or JESUS SAID -- GO AND DO THE SAME!

**HEART PLANT POKE** (can be purchased at a craft section and only about 50c each) - Children can paint their plant poke and even flick the paint bristles on the "poke" for a neat effect. Use a sharpee to write their name or our Bible verse or LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, etc. Spray acrylic sealer on the poke and give to a neighbor for their garden. (This could be done at the beginning of class so the paint could dry, or could be completed the next Sunday)

**HEART SHAPED COOKIES** to decorate would make a nice snack for the children or to take to a neighbor and share the Bible verse for today! (If time won't allow, then the teacher could just have a heart shaped and decorated cookie for each child).

**THE NEIGHBOR GAME:** Have the children sit in chairs arranged in a circle with one person being "It" in the middle. The person in the middle asked someone, "How do you like your neighbors?" If the person answers, "I don't like my neighbors," the person in the middle asks, "Who would you like to be your neighbors? The person names two people and they try to exchange seats with the present neighbors while the one in the middle tries to get one of the vacated seats. The one left without a seat becomes "It." If the person answers the "How do you like your neighbors?" question with, "I like my neighbors just fine," then everyone in the circle must change seats while the one in the middle tries to get one of the vacated seats. It can get pretty wild, but it is lots of fun.