

## NEIGHBOURS DAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY RESOURCES

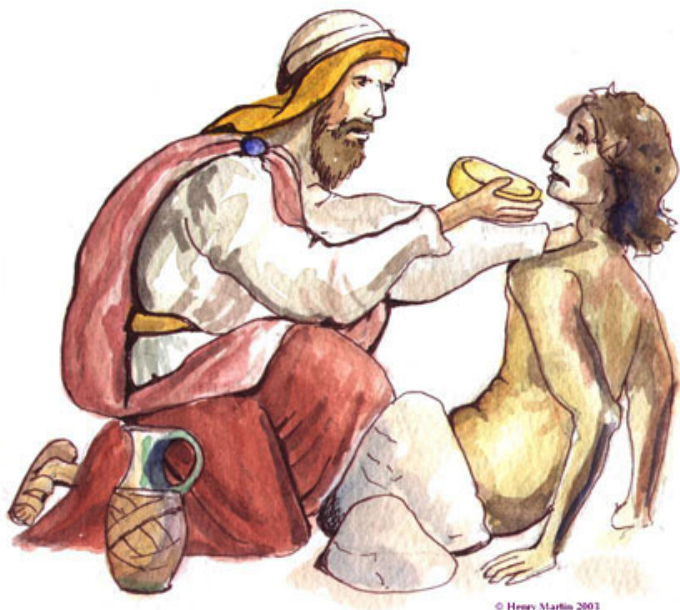
This year **Neighbours Day** is being celebrated on 24 and 25 March 2018.



Why not take this opportunity to remind children about Jesus' teaching on how to be a good neighbour (Luke 10: 25-37) and explore ways they can be good neighbours too!

*Neighbours' Day is the same day as Palm Sunday, so you might like to use our Neighbour's Day lesson the week before on **Sunday 18 March** and encourage a week of loving one's neighbour!*

### The Good Neighbour interactive story/play



This is a simple response story that can be 'acted out' by the whole church or "Sunday School" with actions or sounds that the children (and adults) can join in with as you tell the story. They can stay seated to reduce the excitement.

Allocate the role of the narrator and "director" (his/her speaking lines are in **green**) to a confident person with a loud clear voice. This person prompts the actions and noises from the congregation.

The only other speaking role is Jesus, so choose and prime this person before, so they can run through their script.

Explain to your audience that you are going to need their help to tell this story about **"helping others"**.

As the "director" (and narrator) allocate roles:

Explain you will touch them when it's their turn to swing into action....

1. Prompt
2. Jesus (large speaking role)
3. Man in the crowd (small speaking role)
4. Rocks
5. Robbers
6. Attacked man
7. Priest no 1
8. Priest no 2
9. Samaritan
10. Donkey

- Have your prompt located so all can see him with his prompt cards.
- Create the road down the aisle. If you are doing this in the children's programme get them to stay seated on the floor and create an aisle through the middle of them. If you're doing it in church get the adults to stay in their seats/pews and invite younger ones to sit in the aisle but leave a passage down the middle
- Choose your people sitting next to the aisle to be the rocks.
- Choose some of those sitting behind the rocks to be robbers.
- Get them into place.
- Have the narrator and Jesus and the last four characters (numbers: 7 & 8 - priests, 9 - Samaritan, 10 - donkey) up front with you so they are ready to move when directed.

**Narrator:** *Jesus was teaching one day when a man in the crowd asked him a question.*

**Man:** *"Jesus what must I do to live with God forever?"*

**Narrator:** *Jesus answered:*

**Jesus:** *"Love God and love your neighbour as much as you love yourself.*

**Narrator:** *"But who is my neighbour?" asked the man. "Is it just the person who lives next door to me"? Jesus replied:*

**Jesus:** *"Let me tell you a story to help you understand".*

**Jesus:** *Once upon a time there was a man (director: touch your man and get him ready to walk down the road very slowly) who was walking along the road from Jerusalem to Jericho.*

*Now as you know the road from Jerusalem to Jericho was a very dangerous road. It's twisty and it's steep and there are lots of sharp, dark rocks (rocks show your dark, sharp selves) for robbers to hide behind. (Robbers are hiding behind rocks)*

*Suddenly the man was attacked by a band of robbers. (Robbers jump out and attack man).*

**Prompt:** holds up sign that says '**Aaaaargh!**'. Audience shouts **Aaaaargh!**

**Jesus:** *The wicked robbers beat him up, stripped him of his clothes, stole all his money, and left him half dead by the side of the road.*

**Prompt:** holds up sign that says '**Help, Help**' (in weak voice) Audience says weakly '**Help, Help**'

**Jesus:** *A priest from the Temple in Jerusalem happened to be walking along the same road.*

**Director:** touches priest to send him on his way: Priest to make himself seem fat with big, fat actions

**Jesus:** *He saw the man.*

**Prompt:** holds up sign that says '**Help, Help**' (in weak voice) Audience says weakly '**Help, Help**'

**Jesus:** *And what did he do? He walked by on the other side of the road*

Fat man crosses to other side of the road

**Jesus:** *Then along came a man who helped in the Temple in Jerusalem.*

Same walking action but thinner

**Jesus:** *He saw the man too*

**Prompt:** holds up sign that says '**Help, Help**' (in weak voice) Audience says weakly '**Help, Help**'

**Jesus:** *And what did he do? He too walked by on the other side of the road.*

Thinner walking action again

**Jesus:** *Then along came a Samaritan*

**Prompt:** Hold nose in disgust as if the Samaritan is a disgusting person to be near. Audience does the same.

**Narrator:** *The people Jesus was telling this story to didn't like Samaritans...*

**Jesus:** *He came along on his donkey*

**Prompt:** Make donkey ears and say *hee-haw*. Audience does the same.

**Jesus:** *He saw the man*

**Prompt:** holds up sign that says '*Help, Help*' (in weak voice) Audience says weakly '*Help, Help*'

**Jesus:** *And what did the Samaritan do?*

**Prompt:** Hold nose in disgust. Audience does the same.

**Jesus:** *He had pity on him, went over to the man, poured soothing oil and wine on his wounds*

**Samaritan:** Pours oil on arm and smooths with hand

**Jesus:** *and bandaged them up.*

**Samaritan:** Bandaging man

**Jesus:** *Then he lifted him onto his donkey and asked the owner to take care of him. He took out some money and said: look after this man, and next time I come I'll pay you for any extra costs.*

*Which of the three men was the best at helping others?*

*Was it the priest?*

**Prompt:** Points to Fat Walking priest

**Jesus:** *Was it the helper in the temple?*

**Prompt:** Points to Thin Walking helper

**Jesus:** *Or was it the Samaritan that people didn't like?*

**Prompt:** Hold nose in disgust. Audience does the same.

**Jesus:** *Yes it was the Samaritan...the one that people didn't like...who helped the man.*

*To say truthfully 'We help each other' we need to be like the Samaritan ready to help anyone in need, not just the people we like, the people like us, but anyone who needs help.*

**Narrator:** *Jesus ended the story by saying – 'Now you go and do the same!' Let's say that together:*

**Prompt:** 'Now you go and do the same!'

**Narrator:** *Give yourselves a clap!*

**If in the "Sunday School" setting you might like to include these questions:**

Now think about this question for a moment in silence:

Who could you help today?

Is there someone in your class, or in the playground, or in your neighbourhood?

Who might really need some kind help?

Try to find a chance to help that person.

**Prayer:**

Dear God, there are times when we need help from others, and times when others need help from us. Help us always to be ready to help each other, even people we don't like, as Jesus taught us. Amen.

COPY FOR PROMPT CARDS

(red is actions and ***black italics*** is words)

1. **Prompt:** ***Aaaaargh!***
2. **Prompt:** ***"Help, Help"*** (in weak voice)
3. **Prompt:** ***"Help, Help"*** (in weak voice)
4. **Prompt:** ***"Help, Help"*** (in weak voice)
5. **Prompt:** Hold nose in disgust.
6. **Prompt:** Make donkey ears and say ***"hee-haw"***
7. **Prompt:** ***"Help, Help"*** (in weak voice)
8. **Prompt:** Hold nose in disgust.
9. **Prompt:** Points to Fat Walking priest
10. **Prompt:** Points to Thin Walking helper
11. **Prompt:** Hold nose in disgust. Audience does the same.
12. **Prompt:** 'Now you go and do the same!'

# The Good Neighbour PowerPoint Story



This delightfully illustrated story can be downloaded from the Kids Friendly website (link).

We have adapted it from Henry Martin's PowerPoint. To see more of Henry Martin's art and stories available free of charge see

<http://sermons4kids.com/hmartin.htm>.

## Good neighbour games

### Active games

#### 1. Help your Neighbour find their shoe relay

**Instructions:** Divide the children into 2 or more teams. Everyone takes off ONE shoe. Mix them up in a pile at a distance from the team lines. (About 10m or more if you have the space and the children need the run!)

On 'Go' child 1 in each line looks carefully at their neighbour's remaining shoe (the person immediately behind them in the same team) Child 1 then runs up and finds child 2's matching shoe, brings it back and gives it to them. (If it is not right they will need more clues and run back again) Child 2 has to put the shoe on properly before they can set off to find their neighbour's shoe. Team that has helped all their 'neighbours' to get the matching shoes first wins.

#### 2. Cleaning/sweeping relays

On good neighbour day we may help tidy up our neighbourhood. Here's a relay to get some sweeping/cleaning practice!

**Equipment:** Make newspaper roll 'brooms' by tightly rolling up and taping a few sheets of newspaper, leaving the bottom ¼ free. Make it 'fringe' by cutting up from the bottom, spreading out the strips to be like the brush on a broom.

'Rubbish' – torn up newspaper, dried leaves, empty plastic bottles/cans/packets e.g. the kind of rubbish that can be found on the street (not messy though or you will have a real mess to clean up)

**Instructions:** Divide the children into 2 or more teams.

Put a pile of 'rubbish' in front of each team. On 'Go' they have to 'sweep' the rubbish up to the other end piece at a time (have a person for each team with a bag/box or bucket at the other end – no touching the rubbish with hands!)

### 3. 'What's the Bible message?' relay

Use the key phrase or Bible verse from the lesson to re-emphasise what God says about being a good neighbour.

**Equipment:** For each team write out the key Bible verse or message from the lesson. (E.g. 'Love God and love your neighbour as yourself' Luke 10: 27 or "Go and do the same". Cut each word up separately or if you use the whole verse, cut the sheet of paper up like a jigsaw puzzle. Mix up and put in a container for each team.

**Instructions:** Divide the children into 2 or more teams. On 'go' the first child runs up to the container and brings back one piece of the puzzle, then child 2 runs up etc. When all the pieces are returned the group works together to find out what it says. When the team have discovered the message they say "good neighbour" and put their hands on their head. When all teams have it, say the passage together loudly, softly, clapping to a beat etc.

(Variation - put cut out words of the bible passage in a balloon per team. On "go" the first child in the line blows the balloon up and ties it. Then passes it over his head, next under his legs, then next over the head etc. until it reaches the last child in the line who has to pop it to release all the words which the team must assemble to reveal the bible passage., child has to blow up and pop balloon to get word before bringing it back!)

### 4. Spoons to grab/share - A version of 'Rob the Nest'

**Equipment:** 5 large plastic plates, 20 plastic spoons, markers for the 4 corners

**Instructions:** Kids are divided into 4 even teams, one in each corner of the space. These teams are each given a plate. Kids line up behind the plate.

At the centre of this square is 1 main plate with 20 spoons on it.

The aim is for the teams to be the first with 5 spoons on their plate. However only one team member is allowed to go to the centre to get one spoon at a time. The next team member is not allowed to go to get a spoon until the team member in front has come back to the line. Once the spoons are removed from the central plate, teams are allowed to steal spoons from other teams. Same rules still apply.

After a team has won, all the spoons are evenly distributed to all the plates i.e.

5

spoons per plate. Teams now must try to get rid of their spoons. So the winning team now is the team who can get rid of all their spoons first. Again only one team member at a time and only 1 spoon per go.





## Questions

How did it feel to not have as much as your neighbour?

How did it feel to be giving away your spoons instead of trying to steal them from your neighbour?

### 5. All kinds of people relay

Loving God means loving your neighbour – there are all kinds of people who are our neighbours (Could play this after a game of charades 'What might my neighbour look like?' See below) acting out how the different people on the cards would move.

**Equipment:** A set of cards for each team: crawling baby, toddler, school kid on scooter, teenager 'grooving' while walking listening to music on earphones, business woman with briefcase walking quickly checking watch, basketball player bouncing a pretend ball, race car driver, elderly person with a walking stick etc.

**Instructions:** Divide the children into 2 or more teams. Have one team member/leader holding the set of cards for their team (shuffle so they are in a random order, not the same as other teams)

On "go" the first child runs up, takes the first card, reads it and moves back to the group with movements like that person (e.g. baby= crawl, basketball player = running while bouncing a pretend ball) Keep going through the cards until all team has been up and back. Team calls out encouragement especially to those acting slower because of their 'age'

## SITTING GAMES

### 6. Guess my neighbour charades

Loving God means loving your neighbour – there are all kinds of people who are our neighbours. What might my neighbour look like/move like?

(Use the cards from the relay 'All kinds of people' and play this later.)

**Equipment:** A set of cards with words/pictures of: crawling baby, toddler, school kid on scooter, teenager 'grooving' while walking listening to music on earphones, business woman with briefcase walking quickly checking watch, basketball player bouncing a pretend ball, race car driver, elderly person with a walking stick etc.

**Instructions:** Ask for a volunteer to act out how the person on the card might move. Rest of group guesses. Emphasise that God loves everyone and wants us to be good neighbours to others – no matter how different they are from us.

## 7. Do You Love Your Neighbour?

This is a sitting down on chairs circle game.

**Instructions:** Everyone sits in a circle on chairs. One person does not have a chair, and stands in the middle of the circle. This person chooses someone in the circle and asks them "Jill (name): Do you love your neighbour"? If Jill says "No", then the people either side of Jill, have to swap chairs, before the person in the middle can sit down in one of their chairs. If the answer is "Yes", then everyone has to swap chairs.

The aim is for the middle person to get herself onto a chair. If she succeeds then the person whose chair she's taken must go into the middle and ask someone 'Do you love your neighbour?'

## 8. What could my neighbour use this for? A fun props imagination game

**Equipment:** Collect a range of everyday household and interesting items and put them in a large pillow case. Eg ball, small pot, grater, calculator, candle, book, hairbrush, felts, apple, party hat, toy, add some random items too just for fun and to see what children come up with.

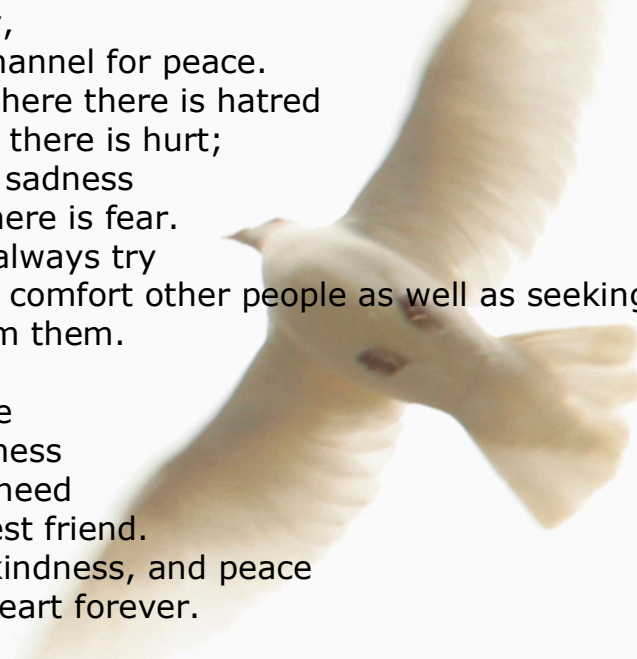
**Instructions:** Children sit in a circle. Give the bag to one child who chooses an item- (without looking!) They have to think of a way to use that item to help their neighbour, passes it to the next person who might be able to think of another way to use the same item. Keep it moving, children can pass if they can't think of anything. When ideas run out for that item, the next child selects a new item. It will be fun, sometimes ridiculous but also you will be surprised by the creative ideas that kids have.

## Good Neighbour Prayers

Peace prayer adapted from "Lord make me an instrument of your peace" (Francis of Assisi)

Dear God

As I live every day,  
Help me to be a channel for peace.  
May I bring love where there is hatred  
and healing where there is hurt;  
joy where there is sadness  
and hope where there is fear.  
I pray that I may always try  
to understand and comfort other people as well as seeking comfort and  
understanding from them.  
Wherever possible  
may I choose to be  
a light in the darkness  
a help in times of need  
and a caring, honest friend.  
And may justice, kindness, and peace  
flow through my heart forever.  
Amen



### Show us Lord

Lord Jesus, show us something to do for you;  
Something loving to say, something kind to do;  
Somebody to comfort, something lovely to make;  
Help us to watch with your eyes for chances  
to do your work because we love you.  
Amen

*(From the Lion Book of Children's Prayers)*

## **For a Love Like Jesus**

Pharisees and wicked men

**Jesus loves them all**

*Saints and sinners, now and then*

**Jesus loves them all**

*Every country, everywhere*

**Jesus loves them all**

*People no one else can bear*

**Jesus loves them all**

*Every type of hair and skin*

**Jesus loves them all**

*Short or giant, thick or thin*

**Jesus loves them all**

*Good at school or with a ball*

**Jesus loves them all**

*Good at nothing much at all*

**Jesus loves them all**

*Poor or rich, between the two,*

**Jesus loves them all**

*Help us love them just like you*

**Jesus loves them all, AMEN**

(From 'A Church for all Ages' SU Peter Graystone and Eileen Turner)

## **A Treasure Hunt Prayer Walk adventure!**

This would work well as an all age activity with adults and teenagers helping younger ones to participate- also solves the safety issues of being out and about in the neighbourhood.

**Equipment:** Plastic containers with lids, instructions and contents such as disposable gloves, rubbish bags, bread, mustard seeds, lines of the Lord's Prayer. A treasure hunting map for each group- on how to locate the containers.

**Instructions:** Before the event, hide plastic containers with creative ideas inside them around your neighbourhood. Give each team a treasure map. Teams work together to solve map reading questions to find the containers and follow the instructions inside.

Some ideas for the containers:

- a. Use the gloves and bin liner to pick up the rubbish you can see around you (be careful of sharp objects). When the bag is full pray together that God will cleanse the area with His love.
- b. Scatter the bread in the container to feed the ducks (or simply on the ground). It says in the Bible that Jesus is the "bread of life". Pray the people of the neighbourhood to become hungry for Him!

- c. Take the mustard seeds and throw them to the wind as you walk. Pray prayers of faith for the community! It only takes faith the size of a mustard seed!
- d. Here are the words of the Lord's prayer. Take one phrase each and as you walk to find the next container pray this one line/phrase for the community!
- e. Everyone closes their eyes and holds onto the shoulders of the person in front. One person with eyes open leads the group along the street. Pray for the spiritual blindness to lift in the community. Have fun! Great for the locals to wonder what on earth you are all doing!

### **Kids Prayer Walk** [www.childrensministry.com](http://www.childrensministry.com)

Take a walk around your church grounds or neighbourhood with the kids. Stop every 50 steps and invite the children to look around for:

- something to praise God for creating;
- someone who has a need, and;
- Something that reminds them of a blessing God has given them.

Allow 30 seconds for children to look around and 30 seconds to pray silently before resuming your walk. When you return to your meeting area, discuss the most surprising thing that each child found to pray about as they walked during the kids prayer walk.

How great would it be to team an older member with one of the children as you do the prayer walk?

## **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

For more information on Neighbours Day Aotearoa see <http://www.neighboursday.org.nz/>

Or download the Love Your Neighbour flyer.

To add your ideas and stories to this resource for future years, email: [robin@kidsfriendly.org.nz](mailto:robin@kidsfriendly.org.nz)

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