# Children’s liturgy: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

## Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green
Props: coloured pens and pencils

## Song suggestions

When I needed a neighbour (888, Laudate)

## Welcome

Today we hear how a Good Samaritan helped a man who was hurt when a Priest and a Levite had both ignored him. Let’s think about who our neighbour is and how Jesus shows us that we should help anyone in need.

## Opening prayer

Loving God, help us to see that all people throughout the world are our neighbours. Grant that we may be ready to help anyone in need, whether they live near or far from us. Amen.

## First reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

## Psalm: Psalm 68: 14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37 R Cf v. 33

## Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

## Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to receive eternal life?”

Jesus answered him, “What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?”

The man answered, “’Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind’; and ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’”

“You are right,” Jesus replied; “do this and you will live.”

But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbour?”

Jesus answered, “There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by, on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by, on the other side. But a Samaritan who was travelling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Take care of him,’ he told the innkeeper, ‘And when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.’”

And Jesus concluded, “In your opinion, which of these three acted like a neighbour towards the man attacked by the robbers?”

The teacher of the Law answered, “The one who was kind to him.”

Jesus replied, “You go, then, and do the same.”

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

## Gospel reflection

What do you remember from today’s reading?

A man asks Jesus who his neighbour is. Who should he be loving and caring for? So Jesus tells a parable – a special story – to explain.

A man is travelling to Jericho when he meets some robbers who beat him up, take all his money and then leave him injured on the side of the road.

A priest and a Levite (the Levites helped the priests in the Temple) see the wounded man, deliberately cross over the road and walk on by. Do you think this is the right choice for these important people to make? Why/why not?

What would you do if you came across someone who was hurt, unwell or sad?

Then Jesus says that a Samaritan (the Jewish people and the Samaritans didn’t get along) saw the man on the ground. He felt sorry for the injured man and went to help him.

What did the Samaritan do for the man on the ground? Why do you think the Samaritan wanted to help the injured man?

Imagine you are the man who is hurt and lying on the ground and the Samaritan is helping you. What would you think and feel?

You might be very surprised because Samaritans and Jews didn’t usually talk to each other or help each other.

Next, the Samaritan takes the man to an inn to rest, he pays the innkeeper and promises to return to pay any more expenses.

When he has finished the story, Jesus asks who the better neighbour is. The priest, the Levite or the Samaritan? What do you think the answer is and why?

What does this story tell us about how we should treat people?

Jesus is saying that everyone is our neighbour, no matter where they come from, or where in the world they live.

At the end of the story Jesus tells the man who asked the question about who our neighbour is to go and do the same as the Samaritan. This what we are all called to do – to try and help one another.

CAFOD works with many people around the world who are poor, helping them to build a better, fairer future for themselves and their families. We are all God’s children. We are all neighbours to each other and so no one should be without the support they need in difficult times. It doesn’t matter where they live, what colour they are or what religion they belong to.

Our gospel story today shows us that everyone is our neighbour in Christ. How will you show your love for your neighbours both here and around the world in the coming week? What will you do?

## Intercessions: *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We know that God is ready to help us when we call and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church: that we may all be Good Samaritans to those in need whether at home, in our local community or around the world. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for world leaders: that they may make fair decisions so that no one is ignored when they need help. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may always be ready to help our neighbours, no matter where in the world they are. Lord in your mercy…

In this Jubilee Year, we pray that we may be signs of hope in our world through all that we do and how we treat one another. Lord in your mercy…

## Closing prayer

Healing God, unite us in love for our neighbours, no matter who they are. Let us be like you and offer compassion and help to everyone in need. Amen.

## Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of the gospel story and to write or draw on the back how they will be good neighbours to others.

Remind the children to go and share with their grown ups all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today. Encourage the children to think about how they can be Good Samaritans – good neighbours – in the coming week. They could think about who might be ignored or neglected in their parish, their school, their neighbourhood etc and what they could do about this. Remind them to do at least one thing in the coming week to show that they are good neighbours to others.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today’s English Version, Second Edition)

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