



# Be a good neighbour...



**Age range: KS1 or KS2 or Primary**

**Theme: response to COVID19 – caring for each other**

**NB This is one of several different options for this specific time in your school community's life. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. Collective worship may not be the time to deal with children's specific worries and concerns, so you may need teaching staff to do this sensitively within the context of their safe classroom environment. This resource is not designed to cause worry in your school community, but is designed to give you a range of responses that might help children to feel more empowered to act. This version includes Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan and focuses on ways in which we can be good neighbours in these difficult days.**

**Resources:**

- The PowerPoint accompanying this script contains recent pictures from the news e.g. Italian residents' responses to lockdown: singing from balconies, clapping doctors & healthworkers going to work etc. Each slide is numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the bits in bold show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.

**Gathering: Slide 1:** Use your usual gathering greeting to welcome your school community

**Engaging:**

- **Slide 2:** We're going to be thinking today about a question that someone once asked Jesus – and a question that I'm now asking you: 'Who is my neighbour?!' So, who do we think our neighbours are? *[invite some responses.....]* Our neighbours could be the people next to us at the moment, other people in our school community or people who live near us, or maybe someone in our local community.
- **Slide 3:** So let's hear what Jesus gave as an answer to the same question 'Who is my neighbour?' ..... and as he often did when someone asked a question, he didn't exactly give them an answer but instead told them a story.....
- **Slide 4:** A man was travelling on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, through a rocky mountain pass. This road was a dangerous road, as there were many places where bandits could hide, ready to jump on passing travellers, beat them up and rob them.
- **Slide 5:** And so as he turned the corner of the rocky mountain pass, the bandits spotted the traveller.
- **Slide 6:** They beat him up, robbed him and ran away with their swag bags, leaving him wounded on the road.
- **Slide 7:** A Jewish rabbi was passing along that same road.
- **Slide 8:** He saw the injured man
- **Slide 9:** ...but instead of helping, he crossed over to the other side of the road and carried on his journey.
- **Slide 10:** Another Jewish man who worked in the temple also passed along that same road.
- **Slide 11:** He too saw the injured man, crossed over to the other side and carried on his way.
- **Slide 12:** And then a Samaritan traveller came along that same road, with his donkey.
- **Slide 13:** He too saw the injured man and felt so sorry for him.
- **Slide 14:** So instead of passing by, he went to the wounded traveller, bathed and bandaged his wounds and then helped him onto his donkey.
- **Slide 15:** Then he took him to an inn in the next town and made sure that he was given the best room to rest in and recover.
- **Slide 16:** He paid the inn-keeper with his own money and told him 'Take good care of this man. Whatever money you need to spend on him to make him better, I will repay you when I come back this way in a few days.'
- **Slide 17:** Then Jesus turned to the man who had asked him the question. 'So, he said, 'Which of these three men was a neighbour to the injured traveller?' 'The one who helped him' he replied. 'Then go and do the same!' Jesus told him.



- **Slide 18:** So, let's ask a slightly different question than the one we started with: 'How can we be good neighbours?'
- **Slide 19:** We've been hearing a lot recently about how we can be good neighbours to each other by **washing our hands** to try to keep ourselves, our friends and our families healthy – so we can all do that, and sing 'happy birthday', twice, to each other while we do! But when we take good care with our handwashing, we are also actually being good friends to other people we might meet as well, because it means we're not passing on our germs to others....
- **Slide 20:** ...which means that there are new ways to greet each other!....
- **Slide 21:** And there are other there are other things we can do to **help each other**. These simple words were written by a man named Paul to one of the very first churches, reminding them of how important it is to look out for each other, to be 'good neighbours' and help each other, as Jesus showed in his story.
- **Slide 22:** We all have **people at home** who we can help: maybe with homework, or playing with little brothers and sisters, or doing **household chores** (even the ones you don't like!) In our neighbourhoods, we might have **old people** living in our roads who at this time are feeling alone. We might not be able to visit them, but as a family, you might be able to help them by **getting them some shopping** because they're not able to go out themselves..... Or if you can't do that, maybe you could **write them a letter** or draw them a picture to let them know that you are thinking of them and to cheer them up...

**Slide 23: Responding (and words for worship):**

...so let's take a few moments now to be still and quiet, and think about our own responses to what we've heard today....

We've been thinking today about being good neighbours.....

...we heard Jesus' story of the traveller who showed he was a good neighbour.....

....we've thought about the challenges that lie ahead of us....

....and about the things that we **can** do, especially how we can show we are good neighbours to the people around us...

....our friends, our families, our communities....

....in the stillness now, think what this might mean for you....

I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now, as I ask God to help us. There's a part you can join in with if you'd like to make the prayer your own: the words are the same each time –

**Slide 24: 'Help us to be good neighbours'**.....but if you'd prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts.

Dear God

In our homes and with our families

**'Help us to be good neighbours'**

In our roads and in our communities

**'Help us to be good neighbours'**

To people who need our help

**'Help us to be good neighbours'**

**Slide 25: Amen**

**Slide 26:** All around the world, in recent weeks, there have been stories of how neighbours have looked out for each other..... These pictures come from Italy, where people have been asked to stay in their homes and not go out. People chose to open their windows or stand on their balconies and look out at their neighbours – to sing together.....to clap to say thank you to hospital workers going out to work....to encourage each other in hope. Let's find ways to do the same in our own communities.....

**Slide 27:** So let's remember that even in the middle of these difficult times, we can still show we care for those around us. **Let's be good neighbours.**

**Sending: sing 'A little bit of kindness' or 'Brighter day tomorrow' (both Out of the Ark)**

