

# faith at home

Weekly Resources for Schools

**PHASE: PRIMARY**

**Series:**

**How do we Flourish Together?**

**Theme:**

**Why do we Belong Together?**



## KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

***The Good Samaritan is a parable in the Bible told by Jesus when a man asks him how he can obtain eternal life. Jesus tells this story to make the man think about who his neighbour is. After listening to the story, the man has to accept that it is a Samaritan who takes care of the injured man, someone considered to be different, someone who didn't belong.***

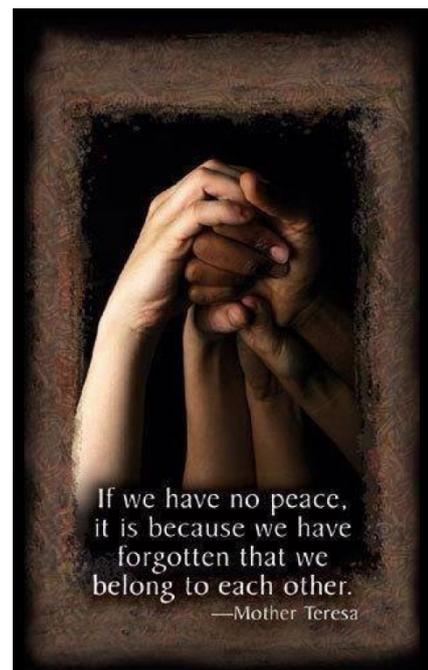
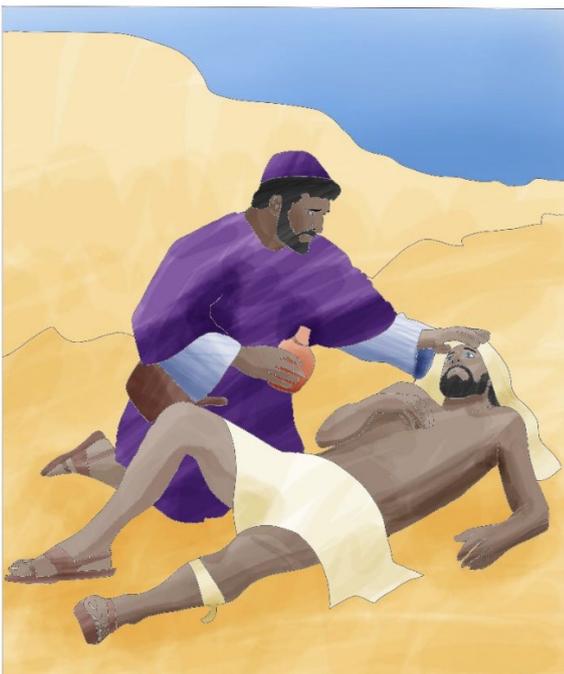
***To follow Jesus' example means embracing difference and realising that everyone is worthy of belonging – not because we are alike, but because we are all of inherent value. It means including others, so no one is left alone.***

***'If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten we belong to each other.' Mother Teresa***

## BIBLE STORY OF THE WEEK:

### The Story of the Good Samaritan

“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 neighbour as yourself.’ Luke 10:27



## Gathering

Close your eyes and think about a time you were hurt. Who came to help you? How did you feel in that moment? Now think about a time you helped somebody else who was hurt or struggling. How did that feel?

Think about your friends and your family. I am sure you are helping each other all the time!

Today we are going to think about how we can help people we don't know and extend our compassion and kindness so that it reaches out towards the people we come across who are hurt, sad, suffering and lonely. To show them that they belong and they matter.

## Engagement

Read the story of The Good Samaritan in your Bible (Luke 10: 25-37), or if you prefer you can watch an animated version of the story here: [The Good Samaritan Story BBC Bitesize](#). If you are feeling particularly energetic and you have enough people, you could even act this story out!

In this story a man wants to know how he can get eternal life. Jesus asks him what the Law says and he answers that he must love God with all his heart and love his neighbour as himself. The confusion comes when he asks Jesus who is his neighbour, and so Jesus tries to show him through the telling of this story.

There are three things this story is designed to make us think about (Jesus is very clever with his stories! He always wants to get people thinking!):

- Who is my neighbour?
- What does it mean to love them?
- Do I really have to love everybody?

During the time of Jesus, people believed Samaritans were people to be avoided. They were seen as different and not as important and so people tried to stay away from them.

They didn't belong.

That is why it is so surprising that it is not the priest or the Levite that stops to help the injured man, but a Samaritan! His actions immediately show he is nothing like the idea people had about Samaritans. He is kind and caring, showing love for the injured Jewish man through his practical actions of caring for his wounds and taking him to safety. The first two men – the ones who did belong - could have done the same, but they let their prejudice get in the way of doing the right thing.

At the end of the story, Jesus asks the man which of the three was a 'neighbour' to the injured man? We think of neighbours as people who belong in our street, in our community, because they live near us.

But the 'neighbour' in this story was someone that would not have felt he belonged. His kindness, his actions were what made him a 'neighbour'.

Maybe we need to think again about what belonging really means.

## Response

In the story the Good Samaritan helped the injured man, going out of his way to make sure he was comfortable, comforted and safe. It didn't matter that they were different. It mattered that they were both made in God's image and one of them was in need.

Think about the people who are different to you. Perhaps they look different or act differently. Maybe they weren't born in this country or they speak a different language to you. Perhaps they don't have a home or much food to eat. But we don't have to be the same to belong.

There are lots of opportunities to be kind and to show others that they belong.

You will be able to show kindness at school and there will be times you and your family can help those who are struggling together. It is a good thing to talk about and to look at the world with God's eyes – a world where we all belong together.

How easy do you find it to be kind to people who belong to your family, club, class or group of friends?

If we saw everyone in our community as belonging to us, would we be a bit kinder?

## Sending

Remember Jesus' questions:

- Who is my neighbour?
- What does it mean to love them?
- Do I really have to love everybody?



Imagine yourself wearing some kindness glasses today. Can you start to see others as belonging to you?

Are they now easier to love? Are they easier to care for? Is there anyone you find it hard to see through your kindness glasses?

Say this prayer quietly and do the actions if you want to as you think about how you can be a Good Samaritan:

*These hands were made for kindness* (turn hands face up)

*My heart was made for love* (place hands over heart)

*My words speak my compassion* (touch lips with your finger)

*My eyes see a chance for me to make a difference to someone* (shape our fingers like glasses around your eyes)

*So everyone knows they belong and no one feels alone* (hug hands together)

*Amen*

If you see a chance to help someone in need, take it. You might be the only one who does. Remember – we all belong together. No one should be left all alone.



# SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

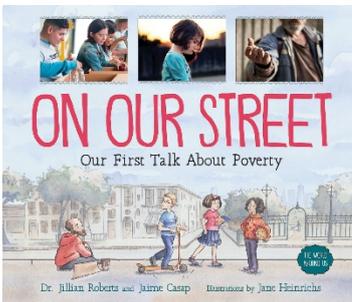
## EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Listen to [Another Day in Paradise](#) by Phil Collins. The lyrics of this song make it obvious that some people in our world suffer while others have more than enough.

For example, how might it feel to not have a home to live in? Who would your neighbour be? Where would you belong?

Think about the people you might see in your village, town or city who are struggling to know they belong. If you want to, draw the place where you live, or just a typical street, showing these things. Can you write some solutions on post-it notes and stick them onto your picture?

Have a look at some books that might help you understand why life is difficult for some people and they need our help.



*On Our Street: Our First Talk About Poverty* by Dr Jillian Roberts and Jamie Casap shows us what being homeless is like and some of the reasons it can happen. There are many charities that can help people who have no homes. Search for some online with a grown up. Many of them have suggestions for small things you can do to help.

Books like *The Journey* by Francesca Sanna help us to understand how hard it is for people arriving here from other countries because they have had to flee violence, poverty or famine. How lonely it must be; how hard to know where I belong. The Prayer Spaces in Schools activity [Children Alone](#) focuses specifically on what it must be like to be a child fleeing from another country.



You might like to try out the activity from this week's video:

Write a friendly message on a post card and send it to someone who might be feeling lonely. It could be your actual neighbour -someone who actually lives next door – or it could be someone you've noticed who doesn't seem to feel they belong!

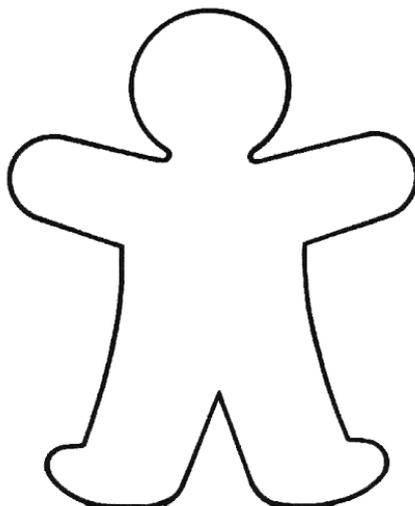
## ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Of course, you can be kind to anyone you see who needs to feel they belong! It might be just a case of smiling at someone who looks sad, picking up something someone else has dropped or saying a kind word of encouragement to someone who feels lost or unsure. There are so many ways to be a Good Samaritan and a good neighbour!

Use the **EXAMEN** prayer to reflect on belonging. It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for times you felt like you really belonged today.
2. ASK FOR HELP to help others know they belong too.
3. REFLECT on your day and think about the times when you felt you belonged 😊 and when you struggled to believe that you belonged ☹️
4. SAY SORRY for the times you walk past someone when you could have helped them
5. DECIDE how you will be a good neighbour - showing others they belong through your kind actions.

Draw the outline of a person. Fill up the person with all the ways you can find to be kind and compassionate to people around you – showing you are a good neighbour and helping them to know they belong! How many can you add in one week?



Start each day with the prayer from 'Sending' above, to remind you to keep an eye out for opportunities to be kind and caring. Or write your own kindness prayer. Share it with your family.

## **CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES**

The story of the Good Samaritan reminds us that we have a choice. When we see someone in need, we can walk right past as if we didn't see and it's not our problem. This can give people the idea that they don't really belong.

Or, we can really look and decide there is something we can do to help them feel included.

### **Does it matter if the person who needs help is different to you?**

No. The story of the Good Samaritan shows us that when someone needs help they are sharing that part of being human that is the same for all of us. We all need help now and again. We all are given the chance to be a neighbour to someone and to let them become our neighbour. The Good Samaritan invites us to grow our understanding of who is our neighbour.

### **What if I see problems that are so big I can't help?**

This can happen. You may not be able to do something to help on your own and you always need to remember the things you have been taught about keeping yourself safe. You can always talk to a grown up about the need you have seen. There are lots of charities that are there to help, so by helping them you can help others. Just taking the time to ask about it shows you care and are wanting others to belong.

### **Does doing a small thing to help someone still count?**

Yes! All those small things make a big difference. People feel loved and wanted when you show kindness towards them. That is why Jesus told the story. We can all be the Good Samaritan and we can all be helped by a Good Samaritan too. We are all just walking each other home.

### **Do I belong, too?**

Yes! The story of the Good Samaritan reminds us that we all have neighbours, and that we are all worthy of care and love. If you feel alone, it's important to reach out and talk to someone you can trust.

### INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

### INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

### INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?