

Collective Worship Secondary

Loving our
Neighbours in
Hard Times

Gathering

Father of all

We gather here together as your children
in this place.

We come with gratitude in our hearts, for
our community, loved ones and the world
in which we live.

Be present among us as we reflect on
what it really means to love our
neighbours.

In the name of your son, Jesus Christ,
whose love is offered to everyone.
Amen



I wonder... where do 'neighbours' live?

What are your particular neighbours like?



Who are your neighbours?

What would you say is good about having neighbours similar to you?

What would you say is good about having neighbours who are different to you?



If a neighbour is someone with shared humanity, how might this challenge the way we see those we struggle to agree with or like?



Jesus' response to the question 'who is my neighbour?' was this story...

'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."





Why do you think Jesus chose a Samaritan to be the hero?

How does this story challenge the way we think about neighbours and enemies?

What does this story suggest about the difference between feeling compassion and actually acting with compassion?

Why do you think the priest and Levite chose not to help? What excuses might people today use for walking past someone in need?



Do you recognise
any of the
characters in this
story from your
own experience?



Similar to the
injured man?



Similar to the
priest or Levite?



Similar to the
Samaritan?



Thinking of each character, what emotions might they have experienced?



The injured man?



The priest or Levite?



The Samaritan?



Who, then, was the good neighbour?

What qualities do you most value in a neighbour and why?

What kind of neighbour are you right now and what kind of neighbour do you want to become?



How can we love all our neighbours, even when it is hard?

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Always looks for the best.

(1 Corinthians 13)



Closing Prayer

Loving God

We thank you for our neighbours, and for the message Jesus taught about loving our neighbours.

Thank you that you understand all our emotions; when we feel angry, frustrated, uncomfortable or anxious, we know you are with us.

Please help us to act with compassion, kindness and respect towards all our neighbours, even when it is the hard thing to do.

May we love others in the way Jesus demonstrated.

Amen

