

Who Is My Neighbor?

"The hero of the story was the person who was wrong."

The Parable of the Good Samaritan helps us to understand how we should treat the people who disagree with us. When Jesus says to "love your neighbor as yourself," do you ever wonder, "who is my neighbor?" Well, the answer is EVERYBODY! And that includes the people who don't believe what you believe.



As Christians, we should always be learning more and more about Jesus and the truth found in the Bible. It is very important for us to believe what is right. But, in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we learn that it's even more important for us to be kind than to be right. "Samaritan" doesn't mean "nice person" In fact, they typically were very unkind to the Jews (and the Jews were unkind to them too!). The Samaritans had some untrue beliefs about God, but Jesus used a Samaritan as the hero of his story. It's best to be kind *and* correct, but if you can only choose one, Jesus wants you to choose kind!

Family Time Questions

- What sort of people are we supposed to be kind to?
- What if they absolutely hate us? Should we still be kind to them?
- Do you think that it's more important to be right or to be loving?

Bible Verses

- **Luke 10:29-37** | The Samaritan man shows compassion to the hurt man.
- **Ephesians 6:12** | Our real battle is against spiritual forces of evil.
- **Luke 6:27-28** | Jesus teaches us to do good to those who hate us.
- **Matthew 22:36-39** | And to love your neighbor as yourself.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for loving me. Help me to draw closer and closer to you, and to find your truth. And please help me to love my neighbor, even if my neighbor is unkind and incorrect. In Jesus' name, Amen.