

# Welcome to the Neighborhood

**The Scene:** a road

**The Simple Setup:** You'll need no furniture on the stage. An open area works best.

**For Extra Impact:** Use masking tape to make a wide, winding road on the floor. Crumple brown paper grocery bags to place along the road as rocks.

**Bible Story**  
Parable of the  
Good Samaritan  
**Scripture**  
Luke 10:25-37

## The Characters

**Narrator:** a friendly storyteller

**Priest:** a guy or a girl

**Temple Assistant:** a guy or girl

**Samaritan:** a guy

**Jewish Man:** a guy

**Robbers:** guys or girls willing to pretend to beat someone up

**Patrons of the Inn:** guys or girls willing to look amazed

## The Skit

*After you've assigned the roles of Priest, Temple Assistant, Samaritan, and Jewish Man, let the rest of your children be either the Robbers and/or the Patrons at the Inn. If you have a small group, let the same children play the part of the Robbers and Patrons of the Inn.*

*As the skit begins, center stage is empty. The Jewish Man is stage right, the Robbers stage left, and the Patrons of the Inn stage left. The Narrator may be offstage or at one side of the stage throughout the skit.*

**Narrator:** One day, while Jesus was teaching about loving our neighbors, a man asked Jesus to explain something. The man wanted to know who our neighbors actually ARE. Did Jesus mean next-DOOR neighbors? people in our KNITTING CLUBS? people who have the LOCKER above ours at school? people who aren't even NICE to us? Jesus answered by telling a story.



**Narrator:** A Jewish Man was walking down a road. See him hiking along there, WHISTLING as he walks? Not a care in the world. Suddenly, a gang of ROBBERS jumped out at him. They pointed to the man's coin purse, so the Jewish Man wisely handed over all his money. Then the Robbers pointed at the Jewish Man's new SANDALS. So the man took off his shoes and gave them over to the Robbers. Then, the Robbers decided they wanted EVERYTHING the man had on him. So the Robbers started shoving and HITTING the Jewish Man. They knocked him to the GROUND and kicked him hard in the head and ribs. They took what they wanted and walked away. They left the Jewish Man lying in the middle of the road, half dead. A little while later, a PRIEST came walking down the same road.

**Priest:** My, my, what a NICE day for a walk. I LOVE to take walks. I ESPECIALLY love it when the WEATHER is nice, and the VIEW is nice, and the people I MEET are nice, and...oh, my!

**Narrator:** The priest saw the broken and bloodied Jewish Man lying in the road.

**Priest:** What IS that in the road up ahead? Looks like a big lump of something BRUISED. Eeeyew, it's a PERSON! And it looks like this person got beat up and left here to DIE. How DISGUSTING! Well, I'm not going to get involved. I'm a PRIEST, after all. I'll just step over to the other side of the road, keep on going, and think NICE thoughts.

**Narrator:** So the Priest walked right on by. Then along came a Temple Assistant. He was walking FAST because he was VERY busy. Temple Assistants don't have time for stopping to admire the view. Suddenly, the Temple Assistant STOPPED. He saw the Jewish Man, who was MOANING and GROANING.

**Temple Assistant:** Well, THAT guy should have been more careful! Can't stop to help right now, though—gotta keep MOVING! Besides, those ROBBERS could still be around!

**Narrator:** So the Temple Assistant quickly walked past. Just then a SAMARITAN came walking down the road. Keep in mind the Jews HATED Samaritans. They thought Samaritans were the lowest of the LOW. NO respectable Jew wanted ANYTHING to do with a Samaritan.

**Samaritan:** Boy, I HATE walking on this road. I hope I don't meet any Jews. They always SCOWL at me and treat me like I'm something they scraped off the bottom of their SANDALS. So far, so good, though. I hope I...

**Narrator:** The Samaritan saw the wounded Jewish Man lying in the road.

**Samaritan:** Hey...something—or SOMEONE—is lying in the road up ahead! It looks like a man. A JEW by the looks of his clothes. Looks like some ROBBERS got ahold of him. They sure messed him up—a broken nose, black eyes, blood all over...The poor guy. He might DIE if I don't do something. I can't just walk BY. I have to HELP!

**Narrator:** So the Samaritan washed the Jewish Man's wounds and bandaged him. The Samaritan put the Jewish Man on his donkey and took the injured man to an inn. There, he helped the Jewish Man into a bed and took care of him. The other Patrons of the Inn were AMAZED to see a Samaritan helping a Jew. They POINTED, and whispered to each other, and RUBBED THEIR EYES as if they couldn't BELIEVE what they were seeing. But it was TRUE—a Samaritan was helping a Jew! The next day, the Samaritan gave the innkeeper two silver coins to care for the Jewish Man. That was a lot of money. And the Samaritan said he'd pay more if it cost more to care for the Jewish Man. After telling the story, Jesus asked who was a neighbor to the man who was attacked. Who do you think was the neighbor?



## To Talk About

- ◆ The Priest and the Temple assistant didn't help the wounded man. Has there ever been a time you *could* have helped someone but didn't do it? What happened?
- ◆ The Samaritans were looked down on in Bible times. Is there someone in your school or neighborhood who everyone looks down on? What could you do to treat that person better?
- ◆ Why do you think Jesus told this story? What did you learn from it?

**Topical Tie-Ins:** Prejudice, Serving Others