

# Kids' Chronicle

## The Good Samaritan

By JOE SARNICOLA

When Jesus was traveling he often stopped to teach about God. He would try to find a hill or other high place where he could be seen by the people who would come to hear him. He would tell stories that made his lessons easier to understand, and he would answer any question that the people would ask him.

After hearing some of the things Jesus was saying, one of the local religious scholars tried to trick Jesus with his questions. "You talk of eternal life," said the man. "But what do we have to do in order to live forever?"

Jesus immediately knew that the man wanted him to say something that would anger the people. "What do the words of Moses tell us?" Jesus asked.

The man placed his hands on his hips, looked down his nose at Jesus and said, "The law says that we should love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves." "If you do only that much," said Jesus, "You will live forever."

The man was not satisfied with the answer Jesus gave him. He gestured with his hands toward the people who were there and asked, "But who is my neighbor? Him? Or him? Or him? I know none of these men." The people leaned forward



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

to hear what Jesus was going to say. "Let me explain by telling a story. While on his way to Jericho, a man was attacked by bandits. They beat him, they stole his money and his clothes, and they left him in the road to die. A priest who was traveling by saw the injured man. He crossed to the other side of the road and did not stop to help. Later, a Levite walked by. He did not stop to help, either. Then a Samaritan man came by. He saw the man in the road and stopped to

help. He poured medicine on the man's wounds and wrapped them in bandages. Then he put the man on his donkey and brought him to a nearby town. The Samaritan rented a room for the man and paid the innkeeper to care for him. Now, who would you say was this man's neighbor?"

The religious leader replied, "The man who cared for him." "Let this be the example that you follow," said Jesus.

Read more about it: Luke 10:25-37.

### Q&A

1. Why did the man ask Jesus questions?
2. Why did Jesus Choose a Samaritan as an example of a good neighbor?

## NEIGHBOR PUZZLE

Jesus wants us to be good neighbors. Everyone is our neighbor. We should pray for our neighbors every day. Using a map or an atlas, circle the countries in each question which are geographic neighbors. Answers can be found on page 2.

1. United States, Mexico, Italy
2. Brazil, Peru, Libya
3. China, Japan, India
4. Ireland, Spain, Portugal
5. Thailand, Cambodia, Laos
6. Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt
7. Zaire, Tanzania, Ethiopia



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 words or less) answering this question:

What can we do to show God that we are good neighbors?

Send your essay - including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade - to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is July 27, 1995. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

We did not receive any entries in response to last month's question:

If God had asked you how to stop the people of Babylonia from completing their tower, what would you have told him to do, instead of changing their languages?

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## Bible Accent

After God created the heaven and the earth and the sea and the sky, he created a man and a woman. He called them Adam and Eve. God told Adam and Eve that they were "in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals." God was very happy with what he had created. We call the place where God placed the first man and the first woman the Garden of Eden. God wanted his people to care for the earth and to care for all the living creatures he had made. But mankind sinned and God's perfect place was ruined.

We should take our responsibilities to God seriously and care for the beautiful earth he has made for us. We should recycle, cut down on waste, and clean up litter. We should be kind to animals. God made them first, then he made us to care for them. We should be kind to our neighbors and pray for those who do not like us and for those who make us angry. If we do our part, maybe God will once again be able to look down on the earth and say, "I am pleased with what I see."

## St. Elizabeth

Elizabeth of Portugal married Denis, the king of her country, in 1283. Although he was not a very religious person himself, Denis did not interfere with his wife's Christian activities. She prayed every morning, she fed people who were hungry and she made arrangements for travellers who had nowhere to stay. She donated time and money to hospitals and homes for children. Elizabeth was able to arrange talks between the leaders of rival nations that more than once prevented wars from breaking out. For these efforts she earned the nickname, "The Peacemaker."

When King Denis became terminally ill in his old age, Elizabeth cared for him until his death. After that she joined a Franciscan convent and lived a life of solitude and prayer until her own death in 1336. Several miracles of healing have been reported as having happened on her grave site. We honor her on July 4.



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