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Spend a little time studying the picture, colour it in if you would like to, making it as muted or vibrant as you wish.

In the passage from Luke, over the page, a priest then a levite (a temple worker) failed to help someone in distress. It was a foreigner from Samaria, a people seen as inferior, who helped the injured man. This happened in an area, some miles from Jerusalem, where priests lived when not on duty in the Temple. If you are in a group you might like to discuss what kept local people from being the 'good neighbour'. Also if, within your circumstances, there are situations where you could help another?

Can you think of an occasion when you have been let down by the very people you might expect to help you? How did this make you feel?

In the story of the Good Samaritan Jesus is asking us the deeper question, 'How do I behave as a neighbour?' How would you answer this?

Read the text below. Is God speaking to you through the words and the picture?

BIBLE READING: Luke 10: 25-37

A lawyer stood and to test Jesus, asked, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus responded, "What do you read in the law". The man answered, "You shall 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 your neighbour as yourself." Jesus said, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

Wishing to justify himself, the lawyer asked, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped and beat him, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he saw him, passed by on the other side. A Samaritan arrived and was moved to pity. He went and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then putting him on his own animal, carried him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he gave two denarii, to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, you ask us to love our neighbour as ourself. Grow my heart that I might have compassion for myself and for others. Help me be a better friend and neighbour to all those people I come across. Each day I hear of stories and situations of people in need. Help me not hide behind the enormity of any situation or the pain and hurt of another but know where, however small, I can make a difference. Father of all, continue to guide my life today. Help me to see each day as a day of opportunity so that your unconditional love will shine out, through my words and action, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

YOUR NOTES:

Bible in Pictures is produced by the Revd. Janet Parker to help by being a Ministerial Presence in challenging times. A new picture should go up each week and can be found at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-KPqLuwWi_2dcibEKwnp4dvz4CLqrs9s

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