

# Noticing Our Neighbor

By Audrey Cox



A popular Bible story—The Good Samaritan—reminds family members of the importance of stopping to notice and care for those around them.

**For**  
Teen Family

**Season**  
Summer

## Needed

Bible, bookmark, Noticing My Neighbors worksheet (see last page), pens

## Prepare in Advance

Place a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 10:25-37. Make a copy of the Noticing My Neighbors worksheet (see last page) for each family member.

## Activity Plan

1. When you gather, begin with the following prayer:

*Dear God, thank you for the powerful stories of Scripture, especially the story of the Good Samaritan. Open our hearts to understand your Word for us in this story. Amen.*

2. From your Bible or from the text at the end of this activity, read aloud Luke 10:25-37.
3. Discuss the story, using the following questions to guide your conversation:
  - Why do you think the priest and the Levite walked by the injured man? (Are there study notes in your Bible that offer insight into this?)
  - Why do you think the Samaritan stopped?
  - Why do you think Jesus told this story? Do you imagine hearing this story changed the lawyer in some way? Why or why not?
  - Have you ever seen someone who needed help and stopped to help him or her? If so, why did you stop?
  - Have you ever seen someone who needed help and did not stop to help him or her? If so, why didn't you stop?
  - Based on Jesus' definition, who is your neighbor?
4. Give each family member a copy of the Noticing My Neighbors worksheet and a pen. The goal is to come up with at least three people to "notice" by extending God's love and grace to them. Allow a few quiet moments for everyone to complete the chart.
5. Invite family members to tell about the people they will try to notice this week.
6. Close with this prayer:

*God of mercy, thank you for forgiving us when we do not stop to help people in need of care or help. Give us the strength to step out of our comfort zones and reach out to others with your love and grace this week. Amen.*



## **Luke 10:25-37**

### **The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

<sup>25</sup> And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup> And he 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 neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”



# Noticing My Neighbors

Place	Person to notice	How will I do this?
<i>Example:</i> School	In biology class, there is a girl who has been more quiet than usual.	Talk with her before class begins. Maybe invite her to sit by me and my friends.

