

Session 4

Messy neighbours

Bible reference

Luke 10:25–37

How does this session help people grow in Christ?

The parable of the good Samaritan not only gives the opportunity to share stories of times we have spent with neighbours now and in the past, but also causes us to think more deeply about who we consider our neighbour to be. Jesus makes it clear that everyone is; there are no boundaries or excuses for not sharing God's love.

Messy team theme

- Talk about those who have been our geographical neighbours in the past.
- Talk about those with whom we share our lives now (or next bedroom/lounge, etc.).
- Share thoughts on global neighbours.



Activity

You will need: household coil wooden clothes pegs (7.5 cm minimum); double-sided sticky tape; scissors; felt-tip pens; circle of thick card; craft wood glue

Twist the clothes pegs and remove the coils. Reverse the two halves so that the long ends are back to back and secure together with double-sided sticky tape. Turn each peg into the people who are attending using felt-tip pens. Form the pegs into a circle, with the lower third of each peg-person firmly touching its neighbour. Take out one person at a time and secure it to its neighbour using wood glue. Cut a circle of thick card (15 cm diameter or appropriate to the size of your pegs). Glue on to the back of the wooden peg circle to support the round from the back. Decorate the card that shows through the gap in the middle.

Celebration

You might choose one of the following:

Share a personal experience illustrating neighbourly love, or ask a team member to give a testimony of a good experience, before sharing the story of the good Samaritan. Then, talk about how God calls us to love not only those with whom we happily rub shoulders, but also those with whom we share no common ground.

Show the five-minute inspirational video clip, 'Pay it forward', which can be found on [payitforwardday.co.uk/news](https://www.payitforwardday.co.uk/news); then share the gospel reading, emphasising that acts of kindness are not just for one day. God's love is 24/7.

Share Jesus' love by inviting someone to come in and speak about a charity project which touches lives globally, such as Samaritan's Purse UK's Operation Christmas Child, and encourage people to fill a shoebox either individually or corporately.

Song suggestions

Bind us together, Lord
A new commandment
Kumbayah
When I needed a neighbour
Jesus, Jesus, fill us with your love
He's got the whole world in his hands