

Aim of lesson

To help the young people to understand the responsibilities we have to others and whether we should help Christadelphians more than the rest.

Bible background

Luke 10:29-37; Matthew 25:31-45; Galatians 6:10; James 2:14-17; Ezekiel 33:1-9.

Preparation required

Read the relevant Bible passages, and think carefully about what your answers would be to the questions in the Students' Notes. Might the young people answer them differently?

Suggested outline of lesson

Use the Students' Notes as a basis for the lesson. The first three sections look at the Bible foundation for our 'neighbourliness'. If you have a large group of students, they could be divided into 3 groups, tackle one section each and then report back.

The good Samaritan

Jesus helped the lawyer to answer the question for himself.

The priest and Levite may have been worried about being robbed or attacked.

Maybe they didn't want to break the law by touching anything unclean, or maybe they were on the way to the temple to perform priestly duties so didn't want to be 'tainted', or maybe they thought it was too dangerous to stop.

The Samaritan was like Jesus in that he brought help and restored life. The oil and wine represent the gospel message. The two silver coins represent the price of redemption that Jesus paid. Jesus went away for a time, like the Samaritan, but will repay the balance in ultimate salvation when he returns. The Samaritan had a donkey, and could help; the priest and levite, representing the law, could not. In the context in Luke, Jesus was travelling to Jerusalem via Jericho, so in this analogy the Samaritan would have taken the injured man back to the city of God, away from the city of destruction to which he had been travelling.

So whom should we help?

Our service to others is worth far more when we remind ourselves we are really serving Christ. Our service should be particularly to our brethren and sisters - but not exclusively. Although we can't solve the world's problems this side of the kingdom, it doesn't mean we shouldn't have compassion on our fellow human beings.

The watchman

We have been entrusted with the precious knowledge of the coming kingdom and how to be saved, and we have an obligation to tell others about it. Some will listen and some won't, but what matters is that we've given them a chance to hear. If we do that, we have fulfilled our duty.

In many ways the gospel message is much more important than good works because it is about eternal rather than fleeting things. However, people may not be very receptive to the gospel when starving. (NB James 2:14-17)

Some hypothetical situations

This section poses some practical situations in which the students could find themselves. Encourage them to use the Bible principles from sections 1-3 to help with their answers. There may not be one 'right' answer, and you may like to think for yourself about the following suggestions:

1. Still offer help. At least make sure there is nothing you can do before leaving it to others.
2. Pray about it. Find out her interest. Get her talking about the past, her grandchildren etc. Ask her help with information for a school project or opinion on a Bible passage or something the speaker said.
3. If you are alone it would probably be dangerous, but you might pray for God's guidance and then trust he will take care of you. Slow down with doors locked and see what they want. Drive on, ring the police and explain you were too nervous to stop.
4. Better to buy food, drink, clothing, room for the night than to give money which may be wasted on alcohol. Talk through what the money is needed for, help with the problem, offer friendship and counselling.

5. Go for help. Try to help get her away. Talk to the attacker. Jesus said “Turn the other cheek” and “Do good to those who despitefully use you”.

Relevance to our lives

If we truly love our neighbours as ourselves we shall not go far wrong. Our service to others is a way of serving Christ. It helps to see that helping our neighbour is not easy, so discussing problems can help.

Prayer

Encourage the young people to pray for God to guide their lives into opportunities to serve others and, by their service, to preach the gospel.

Other suggestions for activities

As this is a practical topic, ask the young people to suggest one way in which they will try and show ‘neighbourliness’ during the coming week.