



Great Lent Giveaway 2013

Wish of a Child

Youth Group Session 2 – Who is My Neighbor? - Christian Almsgiving

Part 2 – Who is my Neighbor?

By Fr. Robert Holet

Ukrainian Orthodox Church Office of Stewardship

Leader Packet

I. **Opening prayer** - [Recite together](#)

From the Lenten Triodion (First Wed - Vespers)

'While fasting bodily let us also fast in spirit. Let us loose e very bond of iniquity. Let us undo the know of every contract made by violence. Let us tear up all unjust agreements. Let us give bread to the hungry and welcome to our house the poor who have no roof to cover them, that we may receive great mercy from Christ our God.'

II. [Read the Scripture passage](#) **Who is my neighbor? (Parable of the Good Samaritan)** **Lk. 10:25-37**

III. [Discussion On the Passage](#) - Who is the man who fell in with the thieves? Who are the poor today? [Consider the following questions](#) as ways to promote thought about the man who fell in with the robbers. You may utilize the following question as a large group or break the participants up into two



or more groups. If in a large group setting, utilize the white board to list responses. If utilizing the small groups, allow each group up to 10 minutes to discuss their question(s). Bring them back together to share their discussion with the larger group.

Question 1. The man who was the victim in the story suffered from many problems. Name as many of the bad things that happened to the man who was attacked by the robber. ([consult the bible passage](#) - use imagination).

Some possible responses:

- he was robbed of his money, other things like his clothes ("they stripped him") or his donkey for transportation

- what kinds of bodily injury do you think he suffered? ("they beat him")
- when someone suffers attack by others, how do they feel? "they abandoned him half-dead" resulting in despair or emotional suffering as well.

Question 2. Who came down the road who could have helped him? What did they do?

(Note the passage says 'he saw him...')

Note: It may help to explain that the people who came by (priest and Levite) were Hebrew religious leaders. Also, according to the Jewish Law, for one of them to touch this man (and his blood) he would have been deemed 'unclean' hence unworthy of carrying out his sacred duty for a period of time. Jesus's parables stress that the Gospel sometimes calls us to transcend our customary behaviors even for religious purposes, so that love and mercy may be exercised.

Question 3. What *could* the priest and Levite done? Why do you think they chose to simply 'pass by on the other side'.

Some possible responses:

- they were afraid that maybe the robbers were still nearby
- they were horrified seeing a suffering person (this is no small matter)
- they were in a hurry to fulfill their duties. Didn't have time.
- they were going on vacation / personal time and didn't want to get involved.
- maybe they assumed the next person coming down the road would help

(better equipped)

Question 4 How is the Samaritan's response different? Why is his response different?

Some possible responses:

- he stopped
- he touched the man (touch is a powerful means of healing itself)
- he used his resources (wine and oil, his cloak, his beast of burden)
- he put his personal agenda/desires/needs aside to care for the man, even though he was not a Jew
- he is motivated by love, not his own concern.

Question 5 How do we identify those in our life who may be suffering? Have you known anyone who:

- Had no money for food, clothing or shelter?
- Have you ever talked to a homeless person? A homeless person your age?
- Suffered a beating?
- Had a really hard time in school with their studies? Was/is depressed?

The idea here is to have the children consider personal experiences of others who have suffered. By telling their story they may also reveal their own struggles dealing with the situation, especially if it is close to home. *Caution - there may be sensitive family situations that are present as the children themselves may be experiencing some type of personal trauma or suffering.*

Discretion is needed- if a situation is sensitive the pastor should be consulted.

Question 6 Was there ever a time when you were in a position to help someone who was in need, and ignored them? Did you mention this when you went to Confession?

III. Wrap Up

Review the story from the beginning, up to the point that the Samaritan takes the victim to the inn (this will be next week's discussion.) Have the youth take a sheet home to talk with their families about what they are going to be able to do to help the man who fell in with the robbers. Encourage them to be creative. You may utilize the icon provided for additional discussion.

In our next session we will continue to discuss the parable of the Good Samaritan. Utilize the questions we worked on in this session to reflect more on our theme. Spend time with your family discussing the *Take-home Challenge* before our next session.

IV. Closing Reflection/Prayer - From St. John Chrysostom

"Let us not overlook such a tragedy as that. Let us not hurry past so pitiable a sight without taking pity. Even if others do so, you must not. Do not say to yourself: 'I am no priest or monk; I have a wife and children. This is a work for the priests; this is work for the monks.' The Samaritan did not say: 'Where are the priests now? Where are the Pharisees now? Where are the teachers of the Jews?' But the Samaritan is like a man who found some great store of booty and got the profit.

"Therefore, when you see someone in need of treatment for some ailment of the body or soul, do not say to yourself: 'Why did so-and-so or so-and-so not take care of him?' You free him from his sickness; do not demand an accounting from others for their negligence. Tell me this. If you find a gold coin lying on the ground, do you say to yourself: 'Why didn't so-and-so pick it up?' Do you not rush to snatch it up before somebody else does?

"Think the same way about your fallen brothers; consider that tending his wounds is like finding a treasure. If you pour the word of instruction on his wounds like oil, if you bind them up with your mildness, and cure them with your patience, your wounded brother has made you a richer man than any treasure could. Jeremiah said: 'He who has brought forth the precious from the vile will be as my mouth.' What could we compare to that? No fasting, no sleeping on the ground, no watching and praying all night, nor anything else can do as much for you as saving your brother can accomplish."

St John Chrysostom, *Eighth Homily against the Judaizers*

4: 1-3

Take a little time to discuss the closing prayer/reflection. When complete, pass out the Take-home Challenge and explain the expectations for the activity. Allocate some time discussing your plans for raising funds and awareness for the Make a Wish Foundation. A special way to end the sessions could be to prepare a Lenten meal together.