



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

# BEING A NEIGHBOR

IN YOUR HOME & ON YOUR BLOCK

## Bible Story Day 1

### The Walls Fall Down

This story comes from Joshua 6. The people of Israel have been set free from Egypt and have wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. God brings them to a town that has people who do bad things. God says the town can be theirs, but the walls must come down. By marching around the walls, blowing trumpets, the walls come down on the 7th day.

**TAKE AWAY #1**

People have always been willing to stand up for what they believe. The people in this story used trumpets to make their voices heard and bring God's love.

**TAKE AWAY #2**

Sometimes you have to make some noise to make a change. Standing up for what you believe in can be loud **AND** not harm other people.

### Ask

**What is something in your home or neighborhood that isn't good?  
What should change?**

### SKIT

Use the following page to act out the story. Try to incorporate as many into the skit as you can. The skit only has a narrator speaking. Everyone else follows the actions based on their parts.



**Setting:** Recommended to be outside. Pretending that the house is the city of Jericho.

**Characters Needed:** Joshua, Priests with trumpets (unlimited number)

**Characters Suggested:** God, soldiers (unlimited number)

**Props Suggested:** Complete the Horn Craft before doing the skit

**God** told **Joshua** “There is something you should know. It’s all about the city called Jericho. The people there are wicked, so I’m giving you their town, but you won’t get in until the walls come down.”

**God** told **Joshua** exactly what to do. **God** told **Joshua** to tell all the people too.

At the break of day, **the people** and **Joshua** started on their way.

First came some **soldiers** leading the way.

Then came some **priests with trumpets** to play.

And last came the rear guard but no one made a sound.

All around the city **Joshua**, the **priests** and **soldiers** walked. But **everyone** was quiet; no one even talked.

For six days **they** marched around the town, like a protest against all that had gone down. For the people of Jericho had done bad things and **Joshua** was going to show them the goodness **God** brings.

Then the **trumpets** gave a blast the seventh time around, then the **people all shouted**, and the walls came down.

The walls crumbled to the ground, not a single one standing. For what **God** demands is goodness for all that is expanding.

**Joshua** gave thanks to **God** and all the people moved in. To bring **God’s** love to the people within.

## Questions

Did those who marched around the city harm others?

What was **Joshua** bringing of **God’s** to the city?

What had to come down for them to bring it?



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

# BEING A NEIGHBOR

IN YOUR HOME & ON YOUR BLOCK

## Bible Story Day 2

### The Good Neighbor

Jesus was once asked what God wants us to do. Jesus said, "Love God with all you have, your heart, mind, and body. And love your neighbor as yourself." Then Jesus was asked, "Who is my neighbor?" The question was asked to try to get out of loving some people. The story Jesus told them, made it clear that ANYONE in need is our neighbor and we are to love them and help them.

**TAKE AWAY #1**

When someone is in need, we stop and help them. No matter how different they might be, we are to help them. That is what Jesus means by loving your neighbor. Your neighbors is anyone in need.

**TAKE AWAY #2**

Helping someone costs you something. We have to give things up to help others. Maybe we have to give our money, or give our time, or give them things that we have, even if we still want those things.

### Ask

**Who in your house or neighborhood needs help? What kind of help?  
What can you and others do to help?**

### SKIT

Use the following page to act out the story. Try to incorporate as many into the skit as you can. The skit only has a narrator speaking. Everyone else follows the actions based on their parts.



**Setting:** Recommended to be outside. Find some kind of path or sidewalk.

**Characters Needed:** “Adam” (man beaten), Samaritan

**Characters Suggested:** Thieves, pastor, someone, Jesus

**Props Suggested:** Band-Aids, coins.

Jesus told this story one day:

There once was a man named **Adam** who was on his way to visit a town that was far away. He was walking along the road, sometimes hopping like a toad.

When out of the bushes jumped some **thieves**. They didn’t say thank you and they didn’t say please. They took his things and knocked him down and left him hurt lying on the ground.

Not long after, a **pastor** came by. The pastor saw **Adam** and heard him cry. The pastor knew God’s commands, that we love our neighbor is what God demands. Did the pastor help? Did the pastor even try? No the pastor did not, he walked on by.

Next came **someone** who knew God too. He knew all the things that God asks us to do. This one thought to himself, “What shall I do? I would rather not bother with *that* kind of guy.” So he **stepped to one side and walked on by**.

At last a **Samaritan** came that way. Most don’t trust a Samaritan because they worship God a different way. He saw the man and decided to stay. He bandaged the wounds and give him a ride. He fed him some food and stayed by his side.

The **Samaritan** took the beaten **Adam** to a place where he could heal and get a helping hand. When the Samaritan was going on his way, he counted his coins and paid for the stay.

Then Jesus asked all who heard this story, “who was a good neighbor?” When they answered the Samaritan, Jesus said do like him and show me your labor.

## Questions

Who helped the beaten man?

What did the Samaritan have to give up of his own to help the beaten man?

What can you give to help someone else?



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

# BEING A NEIGHBOR

IN YOUR HOME & ON YOUR BLOCK

## Bible Story Day 3

### Talking Donkey

Balaam was a person of great power and was traveling on a donkey to say horrible things to God's people. God wanted Balaam to turn around and not say those bad things. God puts an angel in the road, but only the donkey can see it. The donkey tries to turn around three times, but Balaam keeps making the donkey walk. God then speaks, not to Balaam, but through the donkey! Now Balaam listens.

**TAKE AWAY #1**

God speaks to us in unexpected ways. Listen to the world around you. Listen to people. Listen to creation. Listen to your own heart.

**TAKE AWAY #2**

Listen to new voices. Listening to someone who is a lot different than you will help you understand the world and God better. Listen to people older, younger, from far away, different colored skin, etc.

### Ask

**Who is someone a lot different than you and your family that you know?  
How might God be talking to you?**

### SKIT

Use the following page to act out the story. Try to incorporate as many into the skit as you can. The skit only has a narrator speaking. Everyone else follows the actions based on their parts.



**Setting:** Recommended to be outside. Find some kind of path or sidewalk.

**Characters Needed:** Balaam, Angel

**Characters Suggested:** King, Donkey, Other travelers who don't see the angel, God

There once was a powerful man named **Balaam** who was like the **king's** intercom. Whenever **Balaam** said something good, good things would happen, like they should. But whenever **Balaam** said something bad, bad things would happen, even to their dad.

The **king** was scared of God's people, so the **king** sent **Balaam** to say bad things that were dreadful. Things that would make them hurt, like falling down into the dirt.

**Balaam** got on his **donkey** and traveled to their land. The road and scenery was quite bland. On the **donkey** he rode, looking for the right crossroad. **God** wanted **Balaam** to turn around. **God** didn't want **Balaam** to say these words aloud, so **God** sent an **angel** to stand on the road, to block the way, but only the **donkey** could see the **angel** as clear as day.

As the **donkey** tried to waiver from the road, Balaam's anger began to explode. A second time the **angel** appeared, this time the **donkey** shook with fear. However, **Balaam** couldn't see the angle glowing, so he ordered the donkey to keep on going.

This time **God** decided to do something different, **God** was going to give **Balaam** an announcement. The donkey turned his face to **Balaam** and looked at him with eyes like an angry mom. Then out of the **donkey's** mouth **God** said, "It's time to turn around and not say anything bad." **Balaam** knew these words must be from **God** and so did as God said and gave the **donkey** a nod.

## Questions

How did Balaam hear what God wanted him to do?

Would you listen to a donkey? Even if the talking donkey said something from God?

Who is someone in your neighborhood that you should try listening to?



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

# BEING A NEIGHBOR

IN YOUR HOME & ON YOUR BLOCK

## Bible Story Day 4

### Jesus Stands Tall

Jesus was sitting and teaching a group of people when a woman was brought to him. People said she had done bad things, and so she must be hurt because of what she had done. They asked Jesus what he thought. Jesus stood tall and said, "If anyone of you has never done a bad thing in their life, they could be the first to hurt her." They all walked away. She was safe. Jesus told her to do good.

**TAKE AWAY #1**

Standing up for others is how you be like Jesus. Jesus stepped in to help even if other people did not like that he did.

**TAKE AWAY #2**

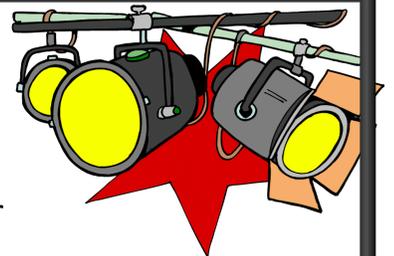
We need to see that everyone makes mistakes and you do too. You mess up. Others mess up. You want forgiveness so give forgiveness. God forgives you and others.

### Ask

**What are bad things that people do?  
What is YOUR reaction when others do bad? How do you treat them?**

### SKIT

Use the following page to act out the story. Try to incorporate as many into the skit as you can. The skit only has a narrator speaking. Everyone else follows the actions based on their parts.



**Setting:** Front Porch. Like sitting outside of the church talking.

**Characters Needed:** Jesus, Woman

**Characters Suggested:** People listening to Jesus, People pushing around woman.

Jesus was sitting outside the place where people gave thanks to God, and when he spoke, the people would applaud.

As Jesus was talking, a group of people brought a woman, a woman whom they pushed around and looked frighten.

The people brought her to Jesus to see if they could cause a fuss. You see, Jesus always had an answer to their questions about stuff.

The people claimed that she had done something wrong. Something that not even God could forgive her for, her whole life long.

They accused her of doing something really bad, they acted like there was no choice to be had. The people said that she must be hurt and their decision made Jesus come alert. The people asked Jesus if it was okay to make her bleed to punish her for her bad deed.

Jesus stood up, stood so fast he spilled his cup. He asked the people, "Have any of you every done something that was not right? Have you done something that is not pleasing in God's sight? If you've never done a thing to hurt another, then maybe I would say it is okay to punish her. However, if you have done things that were not good, you cannot be the one to hurt her, understood?"

When the people heard him speak, they turned their cheek. Jesus forgave her of her sins, and from that day on her new life begins.

## Questions

What did Jesus say to make the people not hurt the woman?

What is something very important to you?

How can you stand up for others so they have it too?