

the short cut

Children's Story

Cycle C, Proper 10

Title: The Short Cut
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Church: Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg MB
Text: Luke 10: 25-37
Theme: Jesus shows how good neighbours care for people who get hurt.

Gathering Activity:

Welcome the children for this part of worship that helps them understand the day's Bible reading, and help them settle into good listening positions and attitudes. Encourage them to imagine themselves sitting on Jesus' lap as Jesus teaches his followers about being good neighbours. Show them Luke 10 in your Bible, where the ideas for today's story come from and ask them to listen for the good neighbour in the story you will tell them.

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder how Alex knew it was important to find Mr. Cressman.
- I wonder if Mr. Cressman will still yell at the children when they cross his yard.
- I wonder how we can be good neighbours like Alex and his dad.

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Story:

Alex and his friends liked to walk across Mr. Cressman's yard on their way home after school. They did this every day, and every day Mr. Cressman would come out on his porch, shake his cane and yell at them. And every day they would laugh and run away.

But one day, when they cut across the lawn, there was no one there to yell at them. Alex was worried. He missed Mr. Cressman and wanted to go check on him. "You mean go right up to the house... and knock on the door?" Some of Alex's friends laughed, the others looked scared. "Not me," they all said, and one by one they all went home. Soon, Alex was all alone. Alex rang the doorbell and knocked on the windows.

Mrs. Rodriguez, the lady who lived next door, came out onto her porch to ask Alex what he was doing. Alex told her his name and said he was looking for Mr. Cressman. Mrs. Rodriguez told him to go home and to stop bothering the old man. Alex said that only Mr. Cressman was allowed to chase him off his yard. Mrs. Rodriguez went back into her house. Alex went back to knocking on and listening at the windows.

Alex heard a phone ringing inside Mr. Cressman's house, but no one answered the phone. It stopped ringing. A while later it rang again. Still no answer. The next noise Alex heard came from behind him. He turned quickly. It was Alex's father. "Mrs. Rodriguez called me. She said that you're trying to break into Mr. Cressman's house." "No I'm not," said Alex, "I just want to know if he's home."

"I phoned Mr. Cressman, but he didn't answer," said Alex's father, "so I phoned his daughter. She's worried." Then Alex's father picked up a key from a special hiding place and unlocked the door. Together Alex and his father walked from room to room, calling out for Mr. Cressman.

They found him in a back room, with a bump on his head and a broom by his feet. He was breathing. They called out to him again and he slowly opened his eyes. Alex sat beside Mr. Cressman, held his hand, and talked to him while Alex's father called

the ambulance.

A few days later, Alex and his friends were again cutting across Mr. Cressman's lawn. Mr. Cressman came out onto the porch and yelled, "Hey! You kids!" They turned and looked back at him. Mr. Cressman steadied himself with his walker. "Thanks," he called. Then he smiled and waved at them. Alex smiled and waved back.

Prayer:

Thank you Jesus for stories of good neighbours. Thank you for people like Alex and his dad. Please help us know how to share your love with people who get hurt, too. Amen.