

Sam and the Thief

Lesson plan A, for faith-based groups.

Luke 10:27

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind;
and your neighbour as yourself.”

Kid Shorts



Faith Challenge

When is helping a needy person uncomfortable or scary for you? Why? Where do you find the courage to do the right but hard thing?

Advance Preparation

- Prepare the videos, *Sam and the Thief*, and *Sam and the Thief: Interviews*.
- Find a current song on the theme for listening and responding to the theme.
- Collect your own list of disgusting things to start the opening discussion.

Activity for Early Arrivals

- Have a light-hearted opening discussion about the most disgusting thing you ever ate or touched. (Depending on your group, you could challenge them to touch something that is slimy.) At the end, say that sometimes God challenges us to get over our disgust factor. Today's session includes an example of that.

Opening Activity

- Reflect on reasons why we sometimes have to do things that we find disgusting.
- Listen and respond to the music you found on the theme.
- Read the theme verse, Luke 10:27.
- Pray: Thank you, God that you love all people, even when we might find them disgusting or frightening. Thank you for people with courage to do the right thing, even when it is hard. Please open our hearts and minds to see the truths hidden in today's video. Amen.

Exploring a new view

- Watch the video, *Sam and the Thief*.

Responding

Discuss

1. What happened after Sam insisted they help the man who was lying on their yard's curb?
2. How does this story relate to your life?
3. Have you ever helped a person who frightened you? What was it like?
4. How does the video, *Sam and the Thief*, compare to the story of the Good Samaritan? Read Luke 10: 25-37.
5. In what ways was Sam similar to the Good Samaritan?
6. What story characters was Sam's mother most like?
7. What advice would you give to someone who has the chance to help a person who scares them?
8. How can your community reach out to hurting people they find frightening?
9. The movie is called *Sam and the Thief*. Do you think he was a thief? Why and why not?

Make a Difference

Discuss where your community brushes up against people who are needy but frightening. Research the ways your community or congregation is working at being good neighbours to them and others. Jesus finishes this parable by saying, "Go, and do likewise." In what ways can your group encourage your wider community to follow this challenging instruction?

Sit in a circle. Name things that you, and others, find frightening about becoming good neighbour to needy people who frighten you. Hold up to God your fears and your hopes for becoming better neighbours.

Close with this prayer: God, we are amazed at the breadth of your love and compassion. Thank you, God, for loving and being with us, even when we are afraid to follow your instructions. Thank you for loving and being with the people who frighten us. Please forgive our selfishness and help us to become better neighbours.

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