

STORY AND ACTIVITY BOOKLET



LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR

Christ the King Lutheran Church
Virtual Vacation Bible School
August 3–7, 2020

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WELCOME TO VBS!

A LETTER FOR PARENTS

Welcome to Vacation Bible School at Christ the King Lutheran Church!



This year’s theme is “Love Your Neighbor”—a commandment that seems especially important given ongoing challenges in our community, nation, and world. We hope this week’s programming inspires your family to live out Jesus’ commandments to love God and love your neighbor in fun and fulfilling ways.

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, this year’s VBS will look quite different than VBS in years past. Although we can’t be together in the church building for stories, songs, and fun, we can still gather in nontraditional ways. Our plan for the week is as follows:

- **From Monday, August 3, through Thursday, August 6, we will meet virtually via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.** Each Zoom meeting will feature stories, songs, skits, puppets, and conversation—just like a typical, in-person daily opening.

To join us on Zoom, go to www.zoom.us/join. The meeting ID is 812 9897 9643, and the passcode is 067082. You will also receive a Zoom invitation via email that allows for one-click meeting access.

Can't make the daily Zoom meeting? No problem! All Zoom sessions will be recorded and available online. Watch them at your convenience at www.ctkonlinefaithformation.weebly.com/vbs.

- **On Friday, August 7, you are invited to join us in CtK's back parking lot for an optional end-of-VBS celebration.** We'll gather for safe and socially distanced projects, fun, and surprises.

Bring your masks, please! And don't forget your filled Sharing Bag and decorated cardboard neighbor! (See Day 4 instructions for additional details.)

In addition to virtual and in-person gatherings, we have prepared a variety of materials for you to use at home. Each student has received a supply bag that contains the following:

- This booklet, which features a recap of each day's story, family discussion questions, suggestions for a daily at-home service project (the "Love Your Neighbor Challenge"), directions for each day's craft project, and coloring and activity pages
- Baggies containing materials for the daily craft projects
- General art supplies for use throughout the week (crayons, markers, glue, etc.)
- Snacks (because besides skits and crafts, snacks are one of the highlights of VBS!)

Thank you for your support of children's programming at Christ the King. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sarah Felde, CtK's Child Faith Formation Coordinator, at sfelde@ctkluth.com.

Have a wonderful week!

DAY 1: WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Story Review

In the Bible, Jesus tells us that we only need to follow two rules—or commandments—to live the way God wants us to. The first rule is to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. The second rule is to love our neighbors as ourselves. When we follow both of these rules, we end up following all of God’s other rules as well.

But who, exactly, is our neighbor? Jesus was asked this question, and he answered it with a parable. A parable is a special story Jesus told to teach his followers about God. The parable Jesus used to explain who our neighbors are is called “The Story of the Good Samaritan,” and it is found in Luke 10:25-37. To watch Pastor Caroline and Pastor Brad retell this story, and to watch a skit that tells the story in a slightly different way, go to <https://ctkonlinefaithformation.weebly.com/VBS>.

Discussion Questions

After reviewing today’s story, talk about these questions with your family:

- Which of the people in the story was a neighbor to the man who was hurt? Why?
- What was Jesus’ answer to the question, “Who is my neighbor?”

- Who are your neighbors?
- What are some ways you and your family help your neighbors?

Love Your Neighbor Challenge

Work together to make a kindness jar. Get an empty jar and some blank slips of paper. On each slip, write a simple kind thing everyone in your family could do to help someone right in front of them.

Put all of the ideas into the jar and take turns drawing one slip a week. Look for opportunities to carry out the acts of kindness that you drew.

Craft Project: Suncatcher

Make a colorful suncatcher to remind you of God’s commandment to love our neighbors.

Supplies

- 2 clear Contact paper hearts
- 1 red heart-shaped paper frame
- Tissue paper in multiple colors
- Construction paper people
- Printed strip that says “Love Your Neighbor”
- Glue or glue stick



Instructions

1. Peel the backing off one of the Contact paper hearts. Place the heart on a hard, smooth surface with the sticky side facing up.
2. Carefully place the red heart frame on the Contact paper so that the edges of the Contact paper are covered by the red paper.
3. Place 2 or 3 construction paper people on the exposed, sticky portion of the heart.
4. Cut or tear small pieces of tissue paper in several colors. Arrange the tissue pieces all over the sticky part of the heart. Try to keep the pieces as flat and smooth as possible when sticking them to the heart.
5. Peel the backing off the second Contact paper heart. Carefully lay this heart on top of the first heart with the sticky side down. This will sandwich the tissue paper and frame between the two sheets of Contact paper to make a suncatcher.
6. Glue the “Love Your Neighbor” strip to the paper frame, or just write “Love Your Neighbor” on the frame instead.
7. Hang your suncatcher in a window and enjoy!

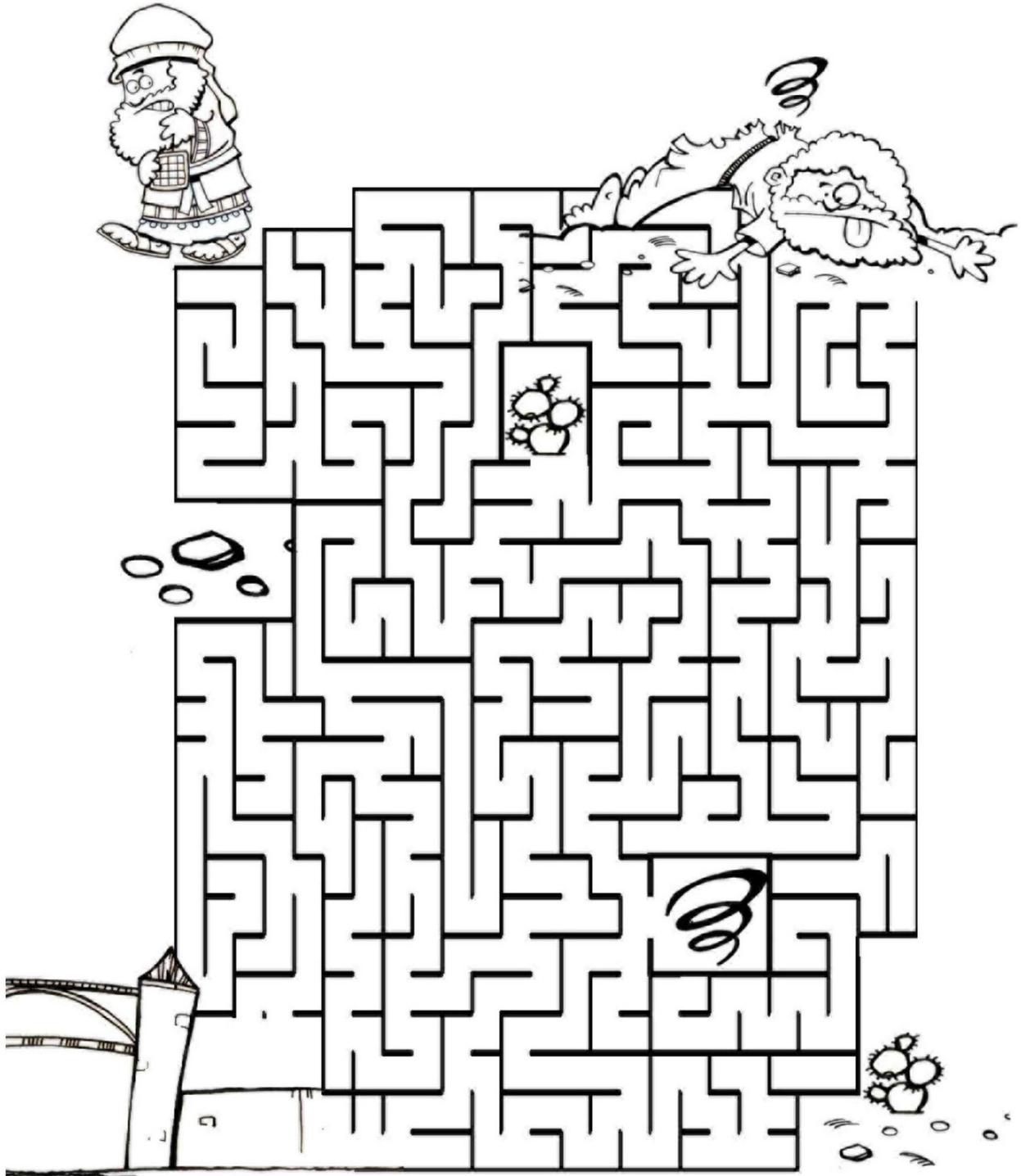
The Good Samaritan



A tear ran down the Samaritan's cheek
as he bent down to help the hurt man.

Need a Map?

Help the Samaritan find the right path to Jericho.



DAY 2: NEIGHBORS WELCOME EVERYONE

THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET

Story Review

On Day 1, we learned about Jesus' commandments to love God and love our neighbor. We also learned that Jesus wants us to love and care for everyone as our neighbor—no matter where they are from, what they look like, or what they believe—because *all* people everywhere are equally important to God!

But how, exactly, can we love and care for our neighbors? The first step is to be welcoming! In today's Bible story (Matthew 22:1-14), Jesus shows us that one way to be a good neighbor is by inviting everyone to be part of God's "party." God never stops inviting people to believe in him—especially people who are poor, ignored, or forgotten by others. Because God invites us all to love and be loved, we should try our best to do the same.

To review today's story—including the pastors' Bible reading and related skits—go to <https://ctkonlinefaithformation.weebly.com/VBS>.

Discussion Questions

After reviewing today's story, talk about these questions with your family:

- What did the king's friends do when they were invited to the wedding banquet?

- Who was invited when the king's friends wouldn't come?
- How is being part of God's family like a wedding banquet or other party?
- What do you think God's party will be like?
- How can you invite and welcome people to God's party?

Love Your Neighbor Challenge

Leave a message to remind your neighbors that God loves everyone! Write "God loves you" on your driveway with chalk, or paint rocks with this phrase and place them around your neighborhood. You could even make note cards and leave them on a neighbor's door (with your parents' permission, of course!).

Craft Project: Party Hat

Decorate your own one-of-a-kind party hat to remind you that neighbors welcome everyone to God's party.

Supplies

White cardboard party hat (flat/unassembled)

Elastic string

Pom-poms

Sequins

Stickers

Glue or glue stick

Crayons and/or markers



Instructions

1. Use crayons, markers, pom-poms, sequins, stickers, and any other craft supplies you have on hand (feathers, streamers, etc.—the possibilities are endless!) to decorate your party hat.
2. If using crayons or markers, it may be easiest to draw on your hat before rolling it into a cone shape. Other decorations can be added to the hat after you've assembled it.
3. Be careful when putting the hat together, as the tabs can tear. After assembly, it may be helpful to tape the tabs to the inside of the hat.
4. Add the elastic string to make a chin strap.
5. Put on your hat, and party on!

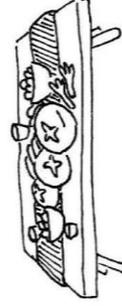
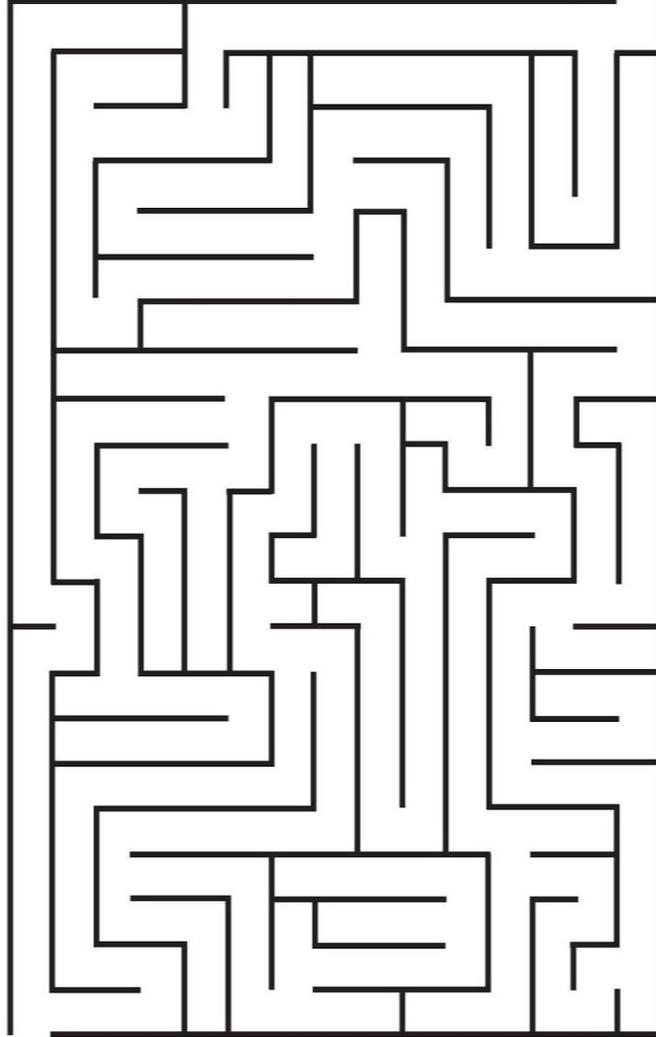
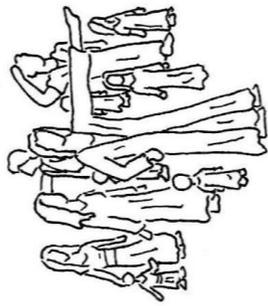
The Wedding Banquet



Soon the party was crowded with laughing and dancing people!

Marry Maze

The guests for the King's wedding didn't make it to the party. Maybe they got lost! Can you help them find the wedding?



DAY 3: NEIGHBORS FORGIVE

THE STORY OF ZACCHAEUS

Story Review

Earlier this week, we learned about Jesus' commandment to love all people as our neighbor. Sometimes, doing this is easy—especially if our neighbors are kind. But what about when our neighbors aren't so nice?

The truth is, God wants us to love our neighbors even when they aren't kind to us. One way to do this is to forgive our neighbors for the bad and hurtful things they have done.

In today's story (Luke 19:1-10), Jesus does exactly this. He forgives Zacchaeus, even though Zacchaeus has been unkind and stolen money from Jesus' followers. This forgiveness makes Zacchaeus feel so good that he decides to repay all he has stolen and more, and to give up his unkind ways and follow Jesus.

Forgiving our neighbors isn't always easy... but it is so important! When we forgive, we make the world a friendlier place. But more importantly, when we forgive, we are following God's example. God is constantly showing us his love by forgiving us for the big and small mistakes we make each day. God even sent Jesus, who died on a cross so that all our mistakes could be forgiven forever!

To review today's story—including the pastors' Bible reading and related skits—go to <https://ctkonlinefaithformation.weebly.com/VBS>.

Discussion Questions

After reviewing today's story, talk about these questions with your family:

- Why did so many people dislike Zacchaeus?
- What did Jesus do to show forgiveness to Zacchaeus?
- Do you think Zacchaeus was surprised when Jesus forgave him? How do you think he felt after he was forgiven? How do you think Jesus felt?
- Can you think of a neighbor who has hurt you in some way? How might you begin to forgive them? Will doing this be easy or hard?

Love Your Neighbor Challenge

Make an "I Forgive You" card for a friend or family member who has hurt your feelings. Surprise them by leaving the card in an unexpected place. When the person finds the card, be sure to tell them how much you (and God) care about them!

Craft Project: Cross Necklace

Create a beaded cross necklace to remind you to forgive others—just like God forgave us by sending us Jesus!

Supplies

Prepackaged necklace kit

Extra beads



Instructions

1. Open the prepackaged necklace kit, which contains beads, a wooden cross, string, and a breakaway clasp.
2. Put the wooden cross on the string first, so it is in the center of your necklace. Then add beads on either side of the cross in whatever pattern you like. (We've included extra beads in today's craft packet so you can be extra creative!)
3. Thread the ends of the string through the ends of the breakaway clasp and secure them with knots. Trim any excess string that prevents the clasp from closing. Then enjoy your necklace!

Zacchaeus



“This way, Jesus,” said Zacchaeus. “This is the way to my house.”

The Big Z Giveaway

Jesus wants Zacchaeus to share his stuff! Can you help? Circle any things that Zacchaeus has two of. He can give those away! When you are finished, count how many "extra" things Zacchaeus had that he didn't need!



DAY 4: NEIGHBORS SHARE AND TAKE CARE

THE STORY OF THE EARLY BELIEVERS

Story Review

This week, we've talked a lot about Jesus' commandment to love our neighbors. We've also explored different ways to follow this commandment: by treating all people as our neighbors, by welcoming everyone, and by forgiving others. Of course, there are many other ways to love our neighbors—and one of the most important is by sharing what we have.

As we saw in today's story (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37), sharing has always been an important part of being a Christian—even among Jesus' earliest followers. The early believers shared *everything* with each other: money, food, clothes, and even their homes. All this sharing meant everyone had what they needed. It also caught the attention of people who weren't part of the church. These people saw how happy the believers were, and they heard the believers praising God for all the blessings he had given them. Then something amazing happened: These other people started believing too. And when they joined the church family, they started sharing their food and money and everything else!

Of course, sharing absolutely everything isn't possible for most of us—but there are other ways we can share with our neighbors. We can give away a portion of the things we have. We can share our time by volunteering or just talking with someone who's having a hard day. And most importantly,

we can share God’s love by telling other people about God and inviting them to be part of our community of sharing.

To review today’s story—including the pastors’ Bible reading and related skits—go to <https://ctkonlinefaithformation.weebly.com/VBS>.

Discussion Questions

After reviewing today’s story, talk about these questions with your family:

- What does it feel like to have enough of the things that you need?
- When do you like to share things? When is it hard to share?
- What does it mean to be generous?
- What are some ways you can share your things, your time, and/or God’s love with others?

Love Your Neighbor Challenge

Create a “Sharing Bag” using the white paper bag in your craft kit. Decorate the bag using markers, crayons, stickers, and other craft supplies. Then find some items in your house you would like to share with someone in need. Ideas include canned/boxed food, outgrown toys or books, and personal care supplies like soap, toothpaste, or shampoo.



Put the items you want to share in your “Sharing Bag” and **bring the filled bag to church for Friday’s end-of-VBS celebration.** We will collect your items and take them to a local food pantry or other charity. You can take your bag home to use again.

If you can’t make it on Friday, no worries! Just bring your donations by the next time you are at church!

Craft Project: Make a Neighbor

Make a cardboard “neighbor” and bring it to CtK on Friday. On Sunday, all of the cardboard people will gather in the church’s front yard. Our group art project will remind everyone of Jesus’ commandment to love our neighbors!

Supplies

Cardboard person cut-out

Google eyes

Markers

Crayons

Glue

Any other supplies you have on hand!



Instructions

1. Find the blank cardboard person in your craft supply kit. Use whatever craft supplies you’d like to decorate **only one side** of your

person. We've supplied (optional) google eyes, but you can use anything you have on hand: markers, crayons, yarn, fabric, paint, etc.!

2. Remember, Jesus tells us that our neighbors include people from all over the world. **Keeping this in mind, try decorating your neighbor so that they don't look like you!** Diverse neighbors make for a more interesting neighborhood!
3. Bring your decorated neighbor to CtK for Friday's in-person celebration. Then watch for your neighbor (and others!) to show up in CtK's front yard just in time for Sunday worship.

Early Believers



The early believers were great at sharing.

Spread the Love

Happiness is contagious! Draw happy faces on all of these new Christians. When you are finished, color in the rest of the page!

