



guide book



This book belongs to:



Pope Francis wrote us

a special letter titled "Fratelli Tutti," about how all the world's people need to learn how to be friends with their neighbors, near and far. He says that even through we may have many differences, we can work together for peace, help each other, and build a better world. This week, we will learn about this letter and some of the Bible stories that Pope Francis uses in it to help us understand how to love our neighbors more like Jesus did.

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**Growing Up
Catholic**



Who is my neighbor? Come visit our neighborhood and find out!

"Allow us to introduce ourselves. People call us Neighbor Nik and Neighbor Nimah. I'm not sure why they call us that, but maybe it has something to do with us trying to be good neighbors to everyone we meet. Sometimes people think that neighbors are the people who live next door or down the street. We like to think, however, that everyone can be a neighbor."

*"Let's get started learning about neighbors. We'll show you around our neighborhood and walk with you throughout *Guide Book*. Maybe after we're finished, people will call you Neighbor, too!"*

—Neighbor Nimah and Neighbor Nik





day 1

The Greatest Commandments

- All:** *A man asked Jesus, "Which is most important of all the commandments?"*
- Leader:** Jesus said, "The first in importance is,
'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
- People:** Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one;
- Leader:** you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
- People:** with all your wanting,
- Leader:** and with all your soul,
- People:** with all your prayers,
- Leader:** and with all your mind,
- People:** with all your ideas,
- Leader:** and with all your strength.'
- People:** with every ounce of your energy.
- Leader:** And here is the second:
'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
- People:** Love self—love neighbor.
- Leader:** There is no other commandment that ranks with these."
- All:** *No other is greater. Love God—love self—love neighbor.*

Word Search

People in the Bible helped each other by caring for plants and animals. In one case, a creature helped a person! Look up the Bible verses and write the answers on the blanks. Then find and circle those words in the word search. Your teacher has the answers.

Bonus: Find and circle these books of the Bible in the word search: **Genesis, Exodus, Kings, Samuel**

Y	R	K	O	S	R	A	V	E	N	S
M	R	R	S	L	S	S	Q	X	O	S
F	P	R	X	E	H	R	T	H	H	K
N	J	T	H	M	E	X	O	D	U	S
L	C	V	E	A	E	S	V	O	H	O
D	S	D	R	C	P	M	V	Q	N	K
R	E	H	T	A	F	Z	O	C	Q	E
H	T	W	H	E	P	B	L	S	N	J
G	E	N	E	S	I	S	O	T	E	L
K	A	K	C	K	I	N	G	S	E	S
S	A	M	U	E	L	J	V	O	Z	H

"In my neighborhood, helping each other is one way to be a good neighbor. Has anyone ever helped you? That person is your neighbor! Have you ever helped anyone? That person is your neighbor, too! Every time we help someone or someone helps us, our neighborhood gets bigger."

1

Genesis 4:2 Abel was a keeper of _____.

2

Genesis 24:19-20 Rebekah drew water for Abraham's _____.

3

Exodus 3:1 _____ helped his father-in-law by watching over his flock of sheep.

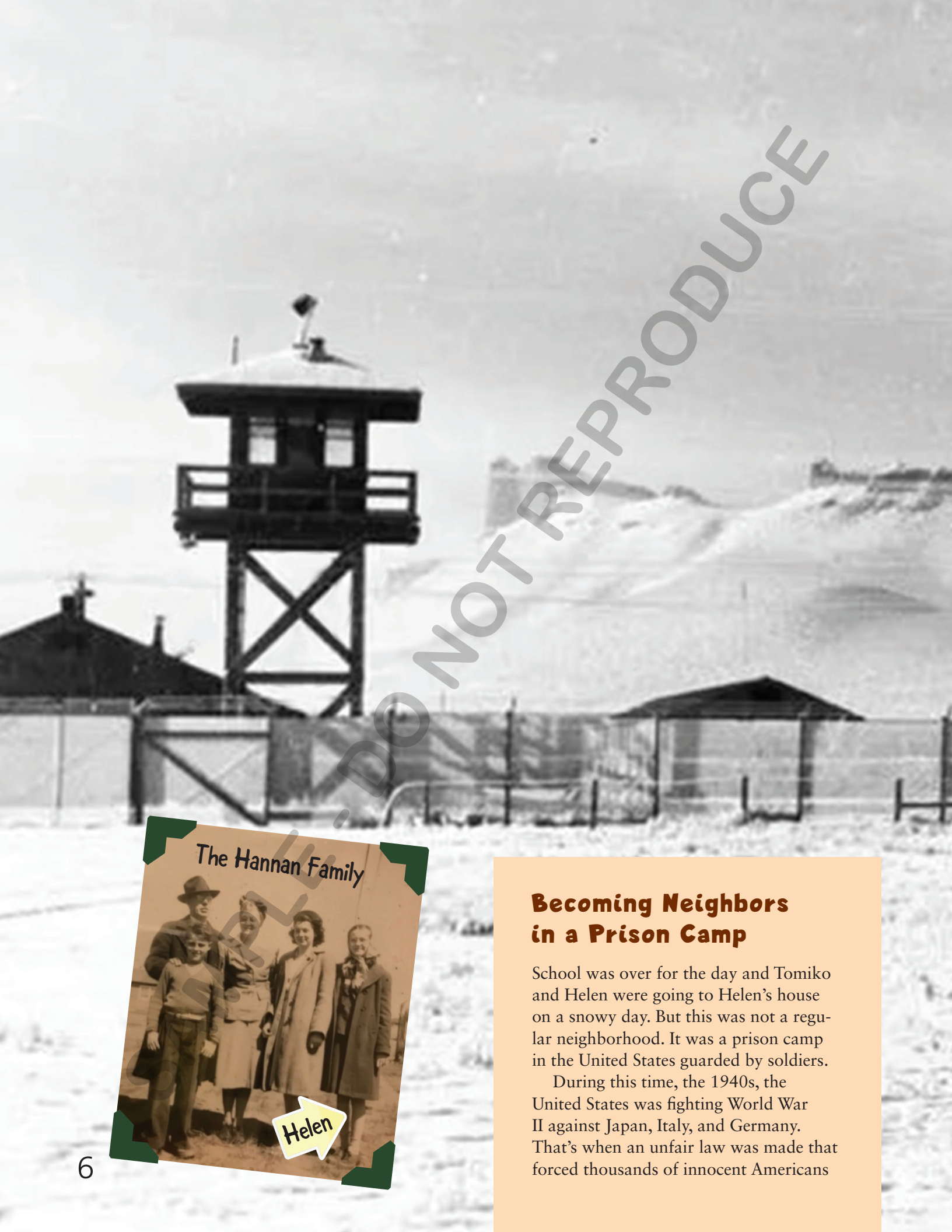
4

1 Samuel 17:15 David fed the sheep that belonged to his _____.

5

1 Kings 17:6 _____ brought bread and meat to Elijah every morning and evening.





Becoming Neighbors in a Prison Camp

School was over for the day and Tomiko and Helen were going to Helen's house on a snowy day. But this was not a regular neighborhood. It was a prison camp in the United States guarded by soldiers.

During this time, the 1940s, the United States was fighting World War II against Japan, Italy, and Germany. That's when an unfair law was made that forced thousands of innocent Americans

into prison camps for three years, just because their ancestors had come from from Japan.

Helen's family did not have Japanese relatives, but her parents were very disturbed when they learned that even people who lived in their neighborhood could be taken to these camps. Their Catholic faith taught them that every person is a child of God and should be treated with respect.

Since Helen's family couldn't stop the government from sending people to the prison camps, they volunteered to move into one themselves to support the prisoners and help them prepare for when they would leave.

Tomiko was a prisoner just because of who she was. She and her family had done nothing wrong. Prison rules stated that Helen could go to Tomiko's tiny apartment anytime, but Tomiko could only go to Helen's place if Helen signed a paper in front of a guard saying Tomiko had Helen's permission.

Helen felt uncomfortable. She was the same age as Tomiko and they were good friends. She hated being treated as if she were better than Tomiko. Tomiko was fun, smart, and a good and loving person.

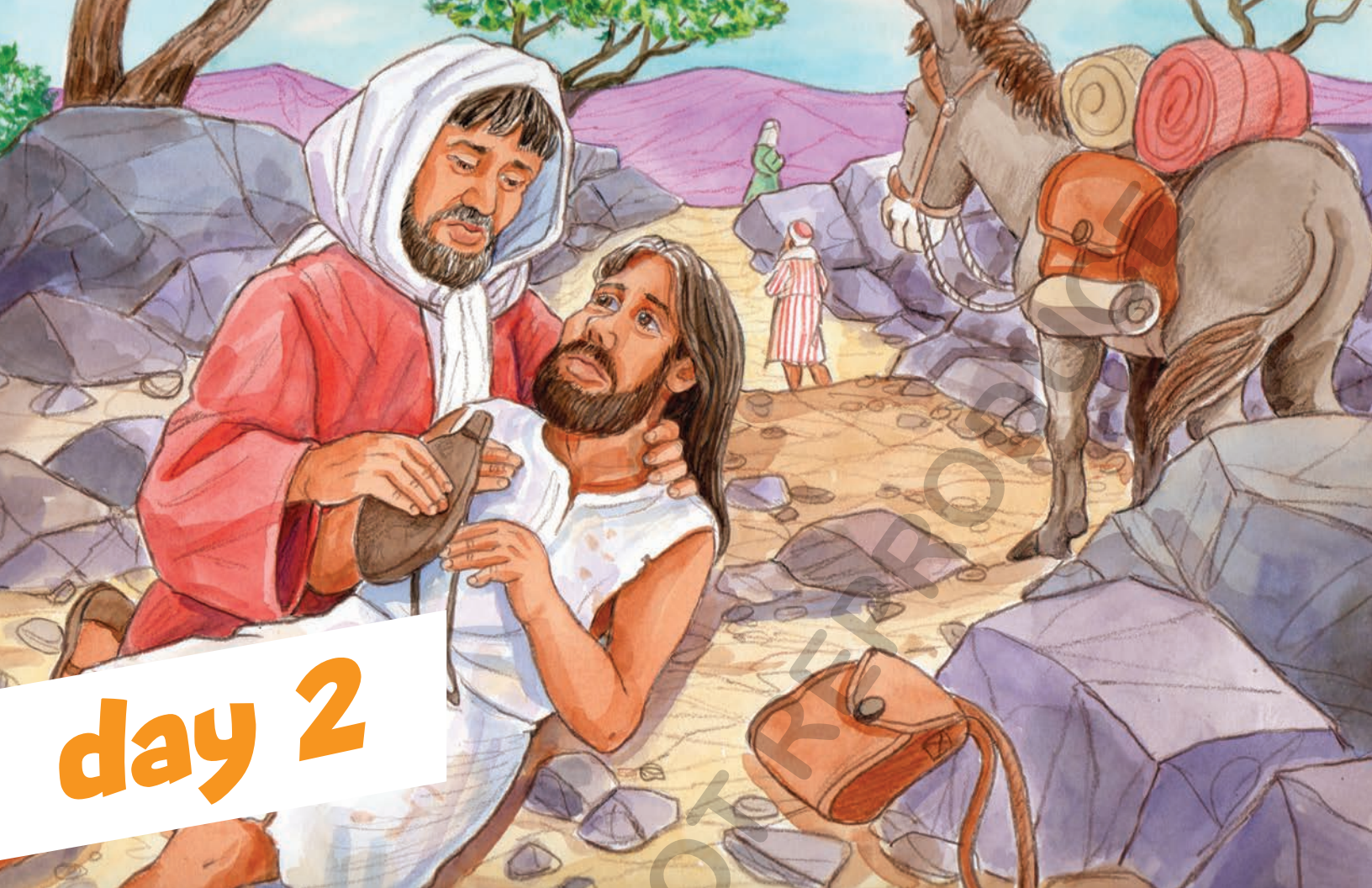
Holding his gun, the guard watched them. Tomiko did not speak. She looked down at the floor as Helen signed. Helen's heart ached for her friend.

Leaving the hateful guard tower, Tomiko shivered. Helen noticed there were tears in her eyes. So Helen said cheerfully, "C'mon! I bet my sister has already made us hot cocoa! And I am going to make popcorn!"

Tomiko gave a little laugh at Helen's enthusiasm. They turned towards Helen's place, talking about school and friends and laughing together. Because that is what good friends do.

—This story is adapted from *Two Days and One Suitcase* by Anne Neuberger and Helen Hanna Parra, which tells the full story of the Hanna family's stays in internment camps. Learn more at AnneNeuberger.com. All rights reserved.





day 2

The Good Samaritan

Narrator 1: Jesus said, "Love your neighbor."
A lawyer asked, "Who is my neighbor?" So Jesus told a story.

Narrator 2: A man traveled on a lonely road.
The man was attacked by robbers.
They took his money and clothes
and left him hurt by the side of the road. Who would help him?

Group 1: A priest walked by.
Group 2: Would he help?
Group 3: Yes, yes, of course.
Group 1: No, he didn't help.

Group 1: A Levite walked by.
Group 2: Would he help?
Group 3: Yes, yes, of course.
Group 1: No, he didn't help.

Group 1: A Samaritan walked by.
Group 2: Would he help?
Group 3: No, no, never.
Group 1: Yes! He did help!

Narrator 2: The Samaritan took the hurt man
to an inn to get well. He gave the
innkeeper money to take care of
the man.

Narrator 1: At the end of the story, Jesus told
the lawyer to show kindness the
way the Samaritan had done.

Find the Memory Verse

Begin at “start” and find the next word in the verse by going up, down, backwards, diagonally, or sideways to put the words in order.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

start

you	Samaritan	neighbor	God	love	all	soul	and
shall	love	help	Levite	with	your	Lord	with
traveler	the	strength	and	command	first	all	hear
one	God	Lord	heart	Israel	priest	your	strength
love	your	mind	your	Jesus	mind	God	neighbor
God	with	all	Samaritan	verse	and	help	heart
Jesus	Israel	one	neighbor	with	love	your	soul
mind	Bible	traveler	journey	hurt	all	verse	strength

Good Samaritans

Read these stories and discover how people helped others—neighbors both near and far.

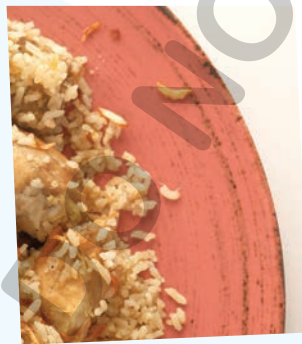
Sharai and her mother stood in a check-out line in the grocery store. Just ahead, a fussy baby sat in a cart that was piled high with items to be checked out. The man with the cart looked exhausted. He said gently, "I'll get you home just as soon as I can."

He began quickly placing groceries onto the checkout counter. The baby started to cry. The man seemed upset, but he kept working. Sharai's mother said quietly, "Getting groceries can be so hard with a baby!" This gave Sharai an idea.

Looking at the baby, she raised her eyebrows and opened her mouth into a big O. The crying baby looked at her. Sharai put her thumbs into her ears and wiggled her fingers. The baby quieted a little. She flapped her arms like a bird. The baby stopped crying, puzzled. She threw her head back and quietly gave a rooster crow. The baby chuckled. Sharai did a little silly dance, waving her arms while still crowing. The baby wiggled his little legs, laughing. Sharai clapped her hands and the baby copied her. Now the groceries were paid for and the man gave Sharai a grateful look. As they left, Sharai waved and the baby waved back.



"People who do kind deeds for strangers are often called 'good Samaritans' after—you guessed it—the good Samaritan in Jesus' story. People who are kind are good neighbors. I wonder how you can be kind to others."



Some years ago, two devastating earthquakes rocked the country of El Salvador. An aid worker named Ryan arrived to help. As he bumped along in a truck carrying food, water, and medical supplies, he saw piles of rubble that were once people's home. Fruit trees lay on their sides, and gardens and farm fields were destroyed. It all seemed hopeless. At the aid station, hundreds of people had lined up for food.

Some looked dazed, others sad or fearful. Most seemed exhausted.

Soon plates of chicken and rice were being handed out. Ryan noticed a man on a hill sending his children to get food, but he remained. Ryan saw a look on the man's face that worried him. It was one of complete despair. This father had no hope.

Quickly, Ryan got in line for food. He was embarrassed, knowing it made him appear selfish and uncaring to get food meant for those who were hurt and hungry. But he wanted to show this father that someone cared. With the food, he hurried up the hillside. As Ryan handed the plate to the father, their eyes met. The man looked at the food and then back at Ryan and nodded. Now he could begin to hope once more for there was real caring going on here. He would eat so he could live and take care his children.



Who are your neighbors?

Write as many names as you can think of.

my neighbors



day 3

What's the Story?

This isn't today's Bible story. The sentences are all mixed up! Number the sentences in the correct order. Draw a well at the bottom of the page.

- ☐ Isaac dug wells.
The herders said, "This water is ours." Isaac moved.
- ☐ Isaac dug wells. The neighbors filled them with dirt.
The king said, "Move away from us. You are too powerful." Isaac moved.
- ☐ Isaac moved again.
He built an altar to God.
- ☐ Isaac and the king had a big feast
together and parted in peace.
- ☐ Isaac dug wells.
No one argued. Isaac named that place Rehoboth.
- ☐ Isaac dug a well. The king came again.
This time he said, "Let's promise never to hurt each other."

How Can I Save Water?

"Isaac and Rebekah lived in an area next to a desert. People dug wells to access water from underground, but digging a well did not necessarily mean that you could find water. Water was scarce then, and water is still a precious resource today. Sometimes we need to save water. Which of these things do you do? Which could you try? Are there other ideas you can add to this list?"



Keep track of all the ways water is used in one day in your house.

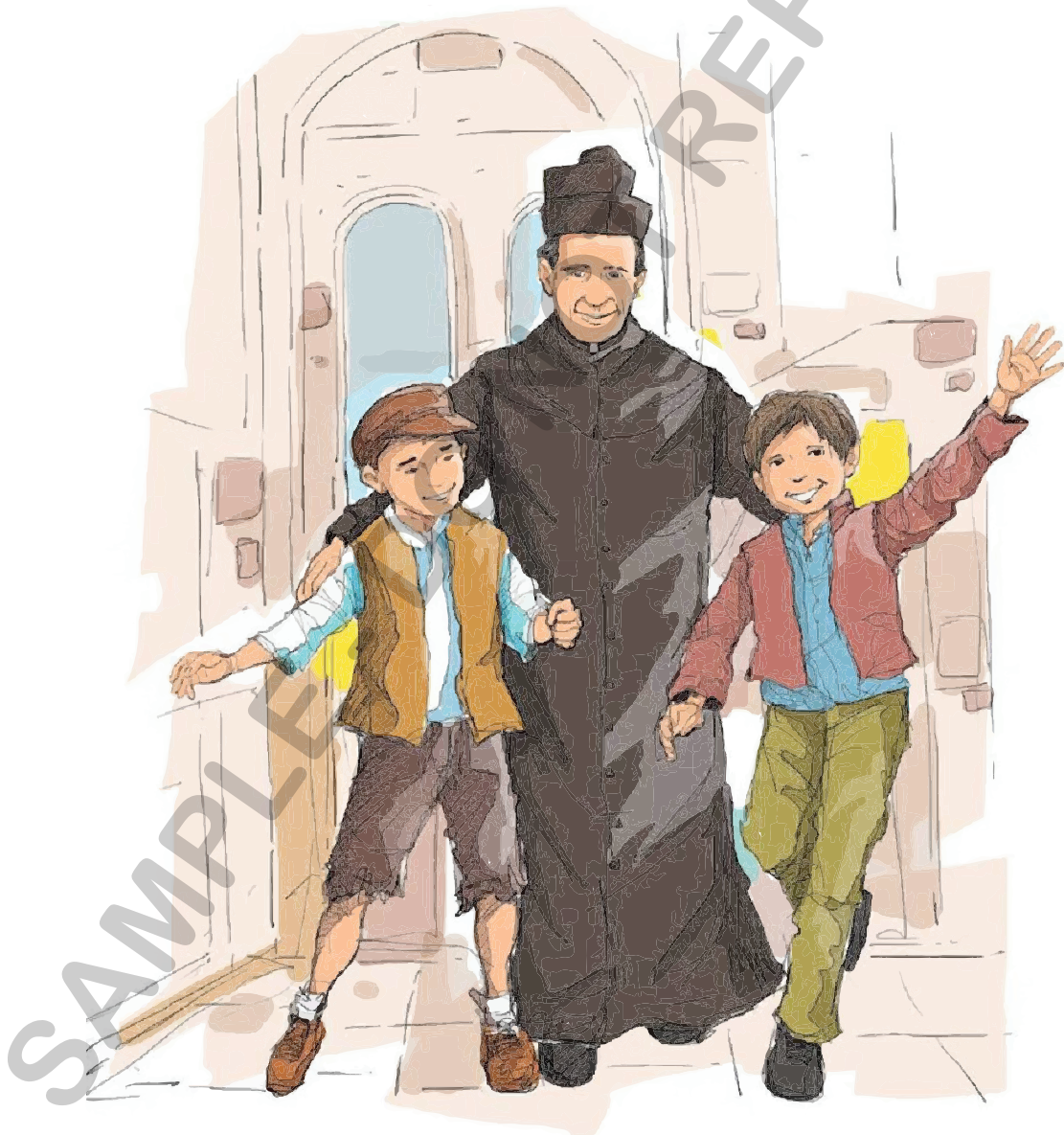
- * Time yourself in the shower, and try to take less than five minutes. Try turning off the water while washing your hair and body and then turning it on again to rinse off.
- * Collect rainwater to water plants.
- * Wash cars or bikes with a bucket instead of the hose.
- * Reuse towels and sheets if staying more than one night at a hotel.
- * Ask your parents about getting a dual-flushing toilet.

Other ideas _____



Meeting Enemies

A Story of St. John Bosco (1815-1888)



John Bosco was a poor child who was rich in God's love. He was full of energy and a quick learner. He taught himself to juggle and do magic tricks. Hearing a talk at church, he could repeat it completely! He decided to become a priest, so his mother got him some hand-me-down clothes to go to school. To pay for school, he worked many jobs, including fixing shoes, making candy, and juggling. John became a prayerful priest with good ideas, lots of energy, and a caring heart.

In Turin, Italy, where John lived, there were many homeless children. They had left their very poor families in the country to look for jobs in the city. Those who found jobs worked too hard for long hours, but they still did not have a home, a school, or enough food.

John came to understand God wanted him to use his gifts to help. First he offered kids food, games, and fun with magic tricks and juggling. Then they prayed together.

Then he found safe buildings for homes for them. John created ways for learning job skills, insisting the children be treated fairly. John gave them healthy food, and a family group to have dinner with, and he even gave haircuts. He taught reading, math, singing and religion classes. John showed the children that God loved each of them.

Through this work, John was fighting enemies called poverty, ignorance, and injustice.

He had more enemies: people who disliked his work. Some worried that people from their churches might go to John instead. Some government and church leaders became afraid the children might start riots. As John taught religion classes in public places, the police chief said that had to stop. To raise money, John wrote books, which made some people angry.

John asked for meetings with them. He wanted to work out the problems. Instead, he was forced to wait for hours. When he was spoken to, he was often insulted.

Then, the attacks started. Several times he could have been killed!

It was not certain who was actually trying to hurt him. He did not fight back. With the help of a guardian dog that always mysteriously arrived when someone was about to hurt John, he was never seriously injured.

Slowly, those who were against him stopped bothering him. Some even came to admire his work.

Eventually, John Bosco found housing for 800 children! He started more than 250 schools all over the world, helping more than 100,000 children! Today, his followers help children in more than 130 countries.



day 4

Come to the Banquet

Narrator: There once was a man who had a feast for his friends. He sent them invitations. But the people made excuses for not coming.

Group 1: Sorry! We just bought land. We can't come.

Group 2: Sorry! We just bought cows. We can't come.

Group 3: Sorry! We just got married. We can't come.

Narrator: The host sent his servant to the town to find new guests. The servant invited people who could not see. He invited people who could not walk. He invited people who did not have food to eat or a home to live in. The servant said to the host,

Servant: I invited many people, but there is still room at the table.

Host: Go out and find strangers and bring them to my table. Everyone is welcome.

Narrator: The servant invited even more people, until the house was full. The new guests celebrated and ate the feast with the generous host.

Word Search

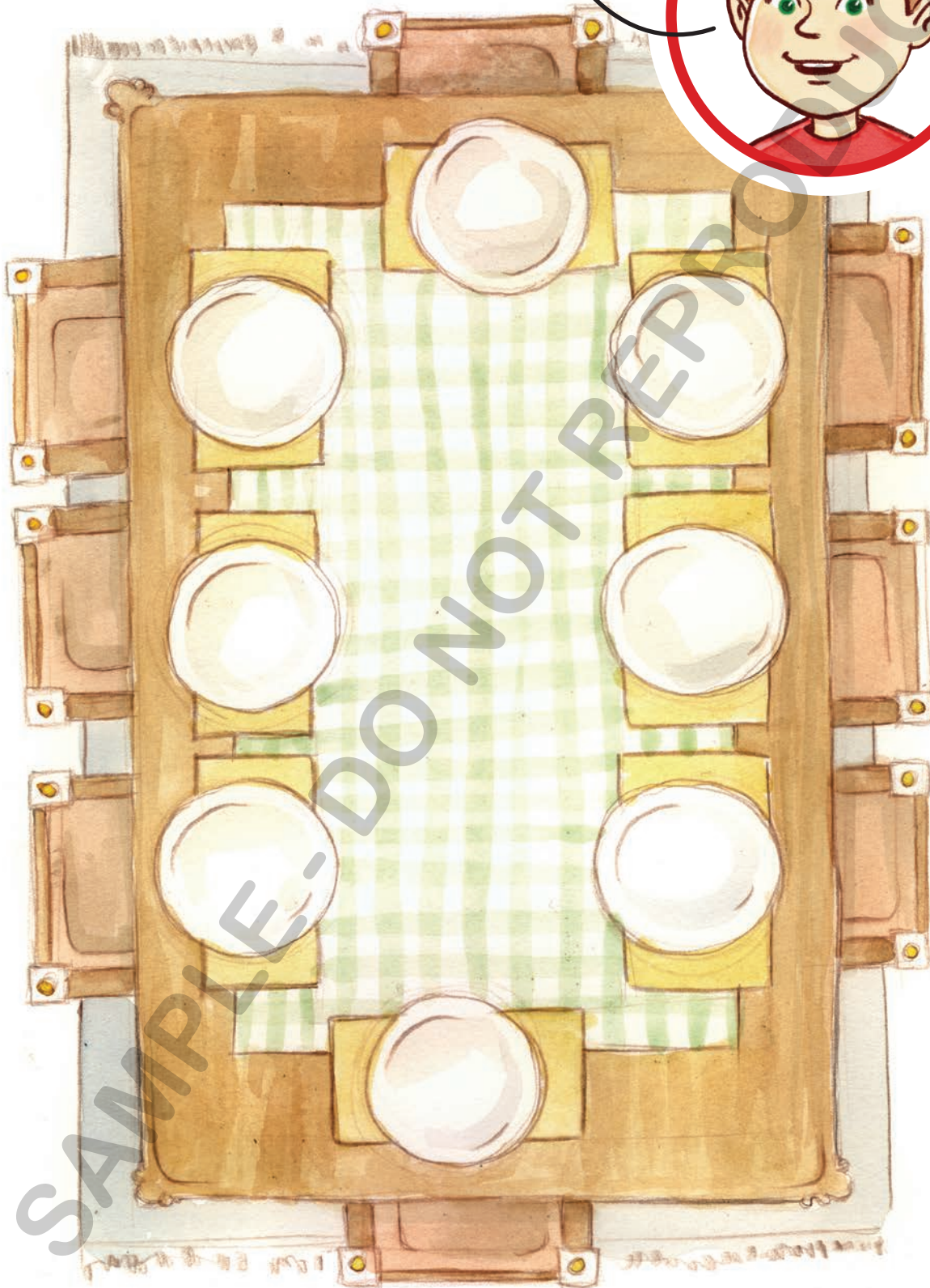
Read the Bible memory passage at the bottom of the page. The words that are capitalized are in the word search. Find them and circle them.

C L N K A Y J C O D W N
L O V E T S R M P E Q E
B X M A K T I W I V B I
I Y D M F R N R S N T G
J G L V A E H W K R D H
Z O P H F N G L M C G B
L D P W N G D U G H C O
Y J X S K T E M L U M R
H E A R T H S J E S U S
A R P S Y E O L R N Q B
J O V R C Y U T Z F T L
B R M Z I S L W O Y L U

"Which **COMMANDMENT** is the first of all?"
JESUS answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our **GOD**, the Lord is one; you shall **LOVE** the Lord your God with all your **HEART**, and with all your **SOUL**, and with all your **MIND**, and with all your **STRENGTH**.' The second is this, 'You shall love your **NEIGHBOR** as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." —Mark 12:28b-31

What would you serve at a banquet?

"I have lots of favorite foods I'd like to serve my neighbors. What would you serve?"



Greetings of Welcome around the World

*"I'm waving to you
because you're my neighbor!
It's a common way we greet each
other. People who live in other parts
of the world greet each other, too.
Every time we greet each other, our
neighborhood gets bigger!"*



In many Latin American and European countries, people greet each other with one, two, or three kisses to the cheek. Usually people simply touch cheeks and the kiss is more of an "air kiss."

In many countries around the world, people shake hands. Sometimes it is appropriate to cup your other hand around the hands that are shaking.

In India, children touch the feet of their grandparents to show respect. People of all ages put their hands together and bow. This greeting is called "Namaste."

In the Philippines, children take the hand of their grandparents and touch it to their forehead.

In Thailand, people put their hands together as though praying and touch their forehead to their fingertips. This is called "wai."

The Maori people in New Zealand rub noses in a greeting called "hongi."

In Tibet greeting others by sticking out your tongue is a sign of respect!

In Greenland, family members greet each other with a "kunik"—breathing on each other.

In the United States or Canada, you can do a fist bump!



day 5

The Early Church Shared

Narrator: After Pentecost, many people came to the apostles. The apostles told them about Jesus. The people were amazed! The people said,

Group 1: Let's eat together.

Group 2: *Let's pray together.*

Group 3: *Let's share what we have.*

Narrator: So they did. They ate in each other's homes. They worshiped God in the temple. They shared everything they had. More and more people came. They said,

Group 1: We want to eat with you.

Group 2: *We want to pray with you.*

Group 3: *We want to share with you.*

Narrator: So they did. They ate in each other's homes. They worshiped God in the temple. They shared everything they had. Each person had food to eat, clothes to wear, and a place to live.

Words Are Missing

Some of the Bible memory passage words are missing! Can you fill in the blanks to complete the passage?

God
heart
second
neighbor
your

other
commandment
hear
mind
yourself

strength
Mark
Lord
one
first

love
with
soul
greater
shall

"Which _____ is the _____ of all?" Jesus answered,
"The first is, '_____, O Israel: the _____ our
_____, the Lord is _____; you shall _____ the
Lord _____ God with all your _____, and _____
all your _____, and with all your _____, and with
all your _____. ' The _____ is this, 'You _____
love your _____ as _____. ' There is no _____
commandment _____ than these.' — _____ 12:28b-31

*"We learned a good Bible
verse during VBS. Now we
know we are always to love
God and love our neighbors."*

*"These are good
words, especially
because our
neighborhood
keeps growing!"*



A Church That Shares

This story is based on the work of Maryknoll Brother John Nitsch and others in their parish of Cristo Resucitado, in Chile. Maryknoll, a Catholic non-profit mission society, provides spiritual, medical, educational, and environmental help in more than 20 countries, primarily in East Asia, the United States, Latin America, and Africa.

Alicia could see that this was a poor neighborhood. Her mother and Brother John Nitsch were delivering food and help to people through a program Brother John had started at their church. Alicia walked with them, helping to carry groceries.

“Many of our parishioners live here,” Brother John said. “There’s Patricia’s house. She had no children, and though she is quite poor, she asked two homeless children to live with her. Now they are a great family.”

"Hi Brother John!" hailed a man's voice. Alicia turned to see a man hurrying toward them. He wore worn-out shoes and carried a new pair.

"Hello, Luis!" Brother John said. "You have new shoes?"

"I was given these, but my shoes are plenty good enough. Please give them to someone who really needs them." He handed the shoes to Brother John. With a wave of his hand, he was off, saying, "Goodbye until Sunday!"

Alicia, her mother, and Brother John entered a very shabby house. An elderly man sat in an old chair, a thin blanket across his lap. Alicia's mother placed a bag of beans, potatoes, and other food onto a makeshift table. Alicia moved closer to her.

Brother John began a lively conversation. "How are you, my friend? Did we bring enough food the last time we were here? Has your good neighbor been visiting and helping you cook your food? Good! Have you tried to walk lately?"

Alicia looked down and saw a dirt floor. She looked up. There were holes in the ceiling. Rain would come through, turning the floor into mud. Alicia looked at the man again, who was now laughing with Brother John.

They did more visits and then headed back to church. A young man cheerfully called and waved to Brother John.

"Is that the person our parish helped go to law school?" Mama asked.

Brother John said simply, "A good education gets people out of poverty. He was a great student, but he was an orphan with no money. Helping him get an education was important."

"And now he uses his education to help others?" Mama asked. Brother John nodded.

Alicia was getting more curious. "Do people have to go to our church to get our help?" she asked.

"Oh, no. But it is through our parish community that we can offer help," answered Brother John.

Back at the church buildings, Alicia noticed workers with lumber and tools working on a building. "What is happening?" she asked.

Brother John said, "That building is being made into temporary housing for immigrants. There are many people coming to Chile from other countries."

"Why?" Alicia asked.

"There is not enough work in their countries," her mother explained. "Here in Chile, we have many orchards. Much of the fruit is shipped to many different places. That makes many jobs here. But until these migrants get jobs and a place to live, they need to have a safe place to eat and sleep."

"But why does our church help them?" Alicia asked.

Mama seemed surprised by the question. She said, "Alicia, what does Jesus ask of us?"

Brother John smiled.

Alicia thought for a moment, and then with a smile, she said, "To love one another."

Dear Neighbors,

That means you—you're our neighbors! It's been fun spending time together walking around our neighborhood. We read stories and did so many things together that we now count you as our neighbors. Our neighborhood just keeps growing, doesn't it?

Let's see what we can remember. The good Samaritan showed us that we can be good neighbors by being kind to each other. Isaac showed us that we can live peacefully with our neighbors. The host at the banquet showed us that sometimes we find neighbors in unexpected places. And the early church sure knew how to take care of each other! We learned a lot about neighbors during VBS, didn't we?

But the most important thing of all is that we love God and love our neighbors! Let's remember this and every day do something to show that we love God. Let's do something every day to show that we love our neighbors, too!

Love,
Neighbor Nimah and Neighbor Nik

