



Love Your Neighbor

The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:30-37

Ranger Ryan got the campfire ready a little early. It was a special night because tonight's campfire was his last at the farm with Pops, Granny B, Delbert and Lello. Tomorrow he was heading to a new forest, but tonight he thought about which story he'd like to share with them.

Pops and Granny B arrived with a basket of goodies. A few minutes later, Delbert and Lello ran up carrying some strawberries from their garden. Ranger Ryan thanked them for the gifts and invited them to sit down for one last story.

"Ranger Ryan? Are you ready for your trip to the new forest?" Delbert asked.

"I sure am. It's going to be exciting. New people, new campfires, and new trails," Ranger Ryan shared.

"Baa! But won't you be nervous to be around all those new things? Especially people you don't know?" Lello asked shyly.

"I'll probably be a little nervous," Ranger Ryan said with a smile, "but I know God wants us to show kindness to others, even those we don't know."

"That's right," Pops agreed. "Will you tell us your story now?"

Ranger Ryan cleared his throat and began, "Once, Jesus told a story about a man who was hurt by robbers. They left him on the road. Soon after, a man came walking by."

"Oh, good! He helped the hurt man, right?" Delbert asked.

"No," Granny B replied, "that man walked right past the hurt man. He didn't want to stop."

"But, it wasn't long before another man walked by on that same road," Ranger Ryan continued.

"Did he help the hurt man?" Lello asked nervously.

"No," Pops replied this time, "he passed by without helping, too."

Delbert and Lello could not believe it! Their mouths dropped and their eyes grew wide.

Ranger Ryan could tell they were getting worried. He continued, "The next man who came was from the land of Samaria, so he was called a Samaritan..."

Lello interrupted, "Did the Samaritan help the hurt man?"

"Yes, Lello, he put bandages on the hurt man and placed him on his donkey to carry him to a hotel where he could be cared for," Ranger Ryan finished.

"Yeah!" Lello cheered.

"It's a good thing he had that donkey!" Delbert added proudly.

Granny B smiled at her two little friends and asked, "Which of the three men who saw the hurt man was a good neighbor?"

"The Samaritan!" they both replied.

Granny B opened up the basket and passed out the goodies she brought. As they ate, they talked about all the stories Ranger Ryan shared that summer and asked him questions about the new forest he was going to visit.