

Loving Like Jesus

a Sanctuary Collective resource

for more information, visit www.sanctuarycollective.org
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used during the 2007 Soulforce Q Equality Ride*



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The community will learn about Jesus' take on the outcasts of his day, and how this relates to the role of LGBTQ people in the Church today.

Materials needed:

- 5 copies of script for skit (included)
- People to share their personal stories about faith and LGBTQ identities
- 3 volunteers to participate in skit

Outline:

- 1) Introduction, choosing volunteers for skit
 - a. Explain that we'll be doing a skit that looks at the story of the Good Samaritan in a new light
 - b. You will need a Narrator (suggested that this is someone in the presentation group), a Crime Victim, a Youth Pastor, a Mother, and a Good Samaritan (also suggested that this is someone in the presentation group)
- 2) Skit (attached)
- 3) Exploration of the inclusionary nature of Christ and Christianity
 - a. The Old Testament is full of laws and regulations dictating who was allowed to participate in Jewish society and religious rites.
 - i. Specifically, the exclusion of the Gentiles in the Old Testament was based on their identity: their identity was seen as impure and unholy, unclean, and unworthy. This made it not appropriate to be in community with God's people.
 - b. In spite of these regulations, there are many examples of Christ's radical inclusion of societal outcasts throughout his ministry
 - i. Samaritans (John 4:1-42; Luke 17:11-19)
 - ii. Women (Luke 10:38-42; Luke 8:1-3)
 - iii. In fact, he turned all kinds of ideas on their head during his sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7)
- 4) There is a parallel between how Samaritans and other people groups were treated in the past by the Church, and what we see going on with LGBTQ people today
 - a. LGBTQ people can be agents of Christ, just as the Good Samaritan: they love like Jesus also and should have the opportunity to do that.
 - i. Personal story/stories from presentation members about LGBTQ people who have been hurt by the Church, and/or desire to be a part of/serve in the Church
 - b. A call to action
 - i. We can't sit and say nothing – that's why we're standing in front of you today
 - ii. Personal story/stories from straight ally/allies about why they are allies

A Modern Day Retelling of the Good Samaritan

Narrator: A person was traveling home from an evening dinner with their extended family when they were accosted by two criminals who mugged and beat them, taking their wallet and leaving them for dead on the side of the road. (*Crime Victim comes to center stage and lies down*) As the person lay on the side of the road, bleeding from a wound on their head and passing in and out of consciousness, they took note of their surroundings and silently thanked God that though they was unable to move or stand up, they would be visible to cars driving by on the highway nearby.

Because it was late at night, there were only a few motorists out on the road. The first driver to pass by and see the person was a youth pastor from a local congregation. He saw the person on the side of the road and hesitated. (*Youth Pastor “drives” close to Crime Victim, but stops before getting too close*)

Youth pastor: Oh my goodness—someone is hurt on the side of the road. I need to do something. I would get out and help them but it just may not be safe. Whoever attacked them may still be nearby, and might assault me if I try to get out and help. Besides, I have no medical training. There's nothing I could really do for this poor person anyways. I'll note where they are on the highway and call the police when I get home. Thank the Lord we live in a society where we have people devoted to taking care of things like this. (*Youth Pastor drives past, and off stage*)

Narrator: So the youth pastor drove on, and the person on the side of the road, who had awakened upon hearing the car approach, cried out in despair (*Crime Victim calls out after Youth Pastor leaves*) as they watched the headlights of vehicle fade into the darkness. However, not long after this they heard the hum of another car approaching, and thanked Jesus that they would surely be rescued this time. (*Mother drives onto stage, pausing near Crime Victim*) The driver of this car was a mother returning from her church Bible study, anxious to get home because she was late and had promised the babysitter she would be home half an hour ago.

Mother: Is that a person on the side of the road? It looks like they're bleeding. I should take them to the hospital. But what if they're not really hurt? What if it's a criminal pretending to be in need of help so they can lure someone out of their car and rob them? Who would take care of my children if I were to be killed? My husband would have to leave his job and find a new one. These are the sacrifices one has to make as a parent—for the sake of my children I cannot risk my safety for the off chance that this person on the side of the road is truly in need of help. (*Mother drives offstage*)

Narrator: The mother drove on, thinking about her love for her children, and how she would do anything for them in the world. As an afterthought, she took out her cell phone and called 911, but by that time she was far down the road and could not give the police any details on the exact location. Furthermore, she became embarrassed with the thought that what she had seen might not have been a person at all, maybe it was in reality a piece of roadside debris or an animal. In the end she thanked the operator and told the police not to worry about because she had simply been confused. The person on the side of the road had watched the minivan pass by, and as it turned the bend in the road and disappeared, they realized that there was a good chance that they might not live through the night. Just before their heart nearly broke with this burden, another vehicle approached the spot where he lay. (*Good Samaritan drives onto stage*)

The driver of this vehicle's heart *was* broken, and s/he (*Narrator should use appropriate gender*) was very sad. S/he had just come from a long meeting with her/his pastor, where s/he had been told that s/he was no longer welcome in the church. The problem, her/his pastor had sadly stated, was that s/he was gay, and that the church could not continue to allow her/him to be a part of the congregation unless s/he repented. S/he was crying as he drove, but when s/he saw the other person on the side of the road, s/he forgot all about her/his own problems.

Good Samaritan: My goodness—is that a person? (*Good Samaritan gets out of car, runs to Crime Victim*)

Narrator: The gay wo/man slammed on his brakes and ran to the person on the side of the road. Although they were covered with blood and dirt, s/he picked them up in her/his arms and carried them to the car. Driving as fast as possible, s/he sped to the emergency room. Upon arriving, s/he told the receptionist to treat the person well, and that s/he would pay any bills or fees.

Jesus asked, “Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the person who fell among the robbers?” The lawyer said, “The one who showed them mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”