

## Faith That Does Something

**Occasion:** All-Age Eucharist

**Reading:** Luke 10:25–37 (NRSVA)

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### The Reading

#### Luke 10:25–37 (NRSVA)

*Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”*

*Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”*

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### Introduction

On a Sunday in July, just before the schools broke for the summer holiday, we shared an all-age Eucharist where everyone - children, young people, and adults - took part.

- We used a toolbox labelled “**FAITH**” to explore how faith is not just something we think or feel, but something we do.

- We used real objects (plasters, coins, snacks, maps, water, torches) to make the story come alive.
- Everyone was given a slip of paper to write down one small act of love they could do this week. These were gathered in and offered during the prayers.
- Our intercessions used fruit to symbolise the “fruit of the Spirit” that God grows in us when we live faithfully.

Below is the sermon text as shared on the day - with notes where we invited people to join in.

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## **Sermon: Faith That Does Something: The Toolbox of Faith**

**[Hold up a toolbox labelled “FAITH.”]**

Good morning!

Today, I’ve brought something with me. Anyone want to guess what it is?

That’s right - a toolbox. But not just any toolbox. This one says **FAITH** on the outside. Some people think faith is something you keep in your head, ideas or beliefs. Others think it’s something you keep in your heart, a warm feeling inside.

It is all of these things... but today Jesus shows us that faith does something. It doesn’t stay in a box. It gets out. It moves. It crosses the road. It gets involved.

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### **The Prayer Slips**

Before we open the toolbox, you’ll notice a slip of paper and a pen or pencil near you. If you don’t have one, someone nearby will help.

Later in the service, we’ll collect them up as part of our prayers. On your slip, you’ll be invited to write down one way you could show love this week: Perhaps this would be:

- Someone to help.
- Something to give.
- A kindness to offer.
- A situation where you'd rather walk by - but you don't.

Don't write it yet, listen to the story first.

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## The Story Jesus Told

A lawyer asked Jesus: *"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

Jesus asked him what the law said. The man answered: *"Love God, love your neighbour."*

Jesus replied:

*"Great. Do that."*

But the man pressed further: *"Who is my neighbour?"*

And so Jesus told a story:

- A man on a dangerous road, beaten and left half dead.
- Two religious leaders pass by without helping.
- A Samaritan - a person outsiders dismissed— - topped, cared, bandaged, carried, paid, promised.

This was love in action. Faith that does something.

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## Opening the Toolbox

Now let's open our faith toolbox.

[\[Invite children/youth to help pull out items one by one.\]](#)

- **Plaster** – for healing. The Samaritan touched the wounds.
  - *Faith heals.* *Fruit: Kindness*
- **Coin** – the Samaritan paid for care.
  - *Faith is generous.* *Fruit: Generosity*

- **Snack (Cereal Bar)** – sometimes it’s the small things.
  - *Faith nourishes.*      *Fruit: Compassion*
- **Map** – the priest and Levite followed their own path. The Samaritan let love lead.
  - *Faith changes direction.*      *Fruit: Courage*
- **Water** – refreshing, life-giving.
  - *Faith refreshes and stays.*      *Fruit: Faithfulness*
- **Tealight/Torch** – shining in darkness.
  - *Faith brings hope.*      *Fruit: Hope*

St Paul prayed that Christians would “bear good fruit in everything you do.” That’s our prayer too – isn’t it? - that our faith would not just be hidden, but visible in love.

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## Preparing for Prayer

Now it’s time to write on your slip. Think:

**“One way I could show love this week.”**

Take a moment to write it down.

[Slips were gathered into baskets and brought to the front, ready for use in the fruit-themed intercessions.]

These small acts are like seeds. We ask God to grow something lasting, full of love.

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## A Kairos Moment

When Jesus finished the story, he asked:

*“Who was a neighbour?”*

The answer: “*The one who showed mercy.*”

And Jesus said:

“*Go and do likewise.*”

Last week, our Vicar spoke about ‘**Kairos time**’ - God’s time, the right, holy moment. In a way, this story of the Good Samaritan is a *Kairos* story. A man beaten and left on the road —

... and lets pause here for a second, imagine you are the victim – aching for help yet the very people you expect to stop – walk on by ...>

... yet, someone does come. They come and stop to help - not because they had time, but because the moment called for love. A *Kairos* moment.

When we sow seeds of kindness, we don’t always see the fruit right away - but faith that does something is willing to act, to trust that in God's perfect time, good things will grow.

Our job is to carry our toolbox and be ready.

Ready to stop. Ready to heal. Ready to love.

To go and *do*.

To bring our faith out of the box.

To use it. Share it. Live it.

To carry our plasters, our coins, our snacks, our water and light - and our hearts, ready to love.

To be a people of faith that does something.

**Amen.**