

## Neighbors and Friends,

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### Storybook: Four Feet, Two Sandals

**Summary:** Two refugee girls who are strangers discover they each have one sandal from a matching pair. Although at first, one is nervous to talk to the other, and they each take their one sandal and go away, eventually they end up sharing the sandals. At the end of the story, when one gets the opportunity to settle in American in a new home and gets a new pair of shoes for the journey, the other girl urges her to take one of the sandals with her anyway (leaving the pair split up) so that they can remember their friendship how they shared together!

**Biblical tie in:** Two girls who were strangers, realized they should come together and help each other. In sharing, they grew in love and friendship of each other. Love means sharing and giving to strangers,

and in love, strangers can become friends.

### Story from Scripture: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

**Bible needed:** *Read with Me Bible*

**(Important note: not all stories are in all children's bibles)**

**Lesson:** Love means sharing with and helping our neighbors.

### Condensed Class Outline:

(Keep your eye on the clock! Two stories and an activity will take the whole time!)

The Good Samaritan

Brief explanation of what a Refugee Camp is, before reading the story

Four Feet, Two Sandals

Activity

### Major themes and Teaching points:

(These aren't ALL the themes, but are four to be sure to drive home with the kids.)

**Neighbors and Friends:** Friends can be made in all sorts of circumstances and we are surrounded by neighbors we can be friends with. As Christians, we believe it is important to share with friends and neighbors who are in need.

**How does God expect us to act toward each other?:** God expects us to be generous and kind, caring for those around us, and sharing what we have.

### Tips for today's class:

1. Begin with your usual opening routine.
2. **Within five minutes of the first arrival, draw their attention to story time.**
3. **Next, ask them: Did you know that the Bible has a story about a man who needs help and a stranger who helps him? Let's read it and see what happens in that story!** Engage the kids in this story. As you glance at each sentence in advance, feel free to change the wording if you think it will help the kids understand the story better. **When you finish the story, drive home themes 1 and 2 from above.** One way to do this is by saying: "Jesus told this story as a way of explaining how we should treat each other." With older kids you might ask, "Do you think God wants us to treat people the way the 1st traveler did? Or the way the 3rd traveler did? Why?" Younger ages may need it spelled out: "The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> traveler didn't seem to be very nice, did they? What did they do when they saw the man on the side of the road? (Answer: they passed by on the other side! They didn't help him!) "What did the 3<sup>rd</sup> traveler do that was different?" (Answer: He picked the man up and brought him somewhere he could get better. He even paid for his care with his own money!"

Now, show them the story book saying, **"Well, I happen to have here another book about strangers who realize that they are really neighbors and should help each other.** The book is called: "Four Feet, Two Sandals." *\*\*\*Before you read, explain that it is a story about two girls in a refugee camp. A refugee camp is a place where sometimes people live if something scary like an earthquake or war happens. For example, many people in Haiti still live in refugee camps, big villages with just tents in them, until their country can be re-built from the earthquake last year. The girls in this story, are in camps because the country they live in has people fighting in it, so they had to move away from the fighting. The girls are hoping to live in houses again soon.\*\*\**

1. As you read, pause every other page or so and ask questions or make your own comments. For example, you might read the part where people are clamoring for clothing coming off the trucks and you might ask, "Do any of you ever donate your used clothes or toys to people in need? Maybe some of them have gone to refugee camps like this!" Or, ask, "Why do you think the girl just walked away when the other girl said, "Peace be with you? The point is, involve the kids in the story. **Current Teachers:** I have placed two sticky notes in the book. One asks you to replace the word 'stupid' with something more appropriate. The other asks you to skip two sentences that feel a bit too mature and aren't crucial to today's lesson. **Future Teachers:** Read the book ahead of time and gauge the appropriateness of certain sections for your age-group!

**When you finish the book, drive home themes 1 and 2 from above again. Ask the group how the girls in the story were good neighbors to each other!**

### **Idea for Hands-On Activity (or chose your own!)**

\*using the prepackaged "bird house" kits available from Oriental Trading, build and decorate Inns, just like the one the Good Samaritan brought the injured man to. Decorate them with love, to be homes that welcome the stranger!

NOTE: for the youngest ages, you may need to build and glue the houses together BEFORE CLASS which will be time intensive. If you do this, note that you'll need to be creative about how they decorate since drawing on the houses will be challenging. You'll need to either a) paint, or b) use a ton of glue and string and glitter, etc...