

Giving to the Community

Lesson 2, Deuteronomy 15:4–11; Matthew 25:42–45, KJV

Neighborly Case Study

The Bible includes several examples of generous men and women who gave their money, time, and service to others without expectation. Choose one character from the list below. Read their story from Scripture. Note the specifics of their circumstances and their motivations.

Abraham (Genesis 18:1–8)

Ruth (Ruth 1:6–22; 2:2–3, 17–19; 4:13–16)

Boaz (Ruth 3–4)

The Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:7–16)

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10)

Dorcas (Tabitha) (Acts 9:36–42)

The Macedonian Church (2 Corinthians 8:1–9)

Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57–60)

How did your character showcase generosity? _____

In what way(s) might you adopt their example? _____

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Spend some time thinking about your local community and brainstorm a list of known needs.

Write a plan to address one (or more) of those needs. Here are a few examples to get you started. Circle ideas that interest you and write your plan at the bottom of the page.

Volunteer Your Time

- *Local Schools:* Tutoring, mentoring, coaching sports teams, or helping with school events
- *Food Banks and Soup Kitchens:* Assisting with food distribution, preparing meals, or organizing donations
- *Animal Shelters:* Walking dogs, cleaning kennels, or fostering animals
- *Senior Centers:* Providing companionship, transportation, or assistance with activities
- *Community Centers:* Assisting with recreational programs, events, or administrative tasks
- *Environmental Organizations:* Participating in clean-up efforts, planting trees, or educating the community

Donate Resources

- *Financial Donations:* Supporting local charities, schools, or community organizations
- *Food Donations:* Contributing to food drives or donating non-perishable items to food banks
- *Clothing Donations:* Donating gently used clothing to shelters or thrift stores

- *Blood Donations:* Donating blood regularly to help those in need
- *Time and Talent Donations:* Offering your skills or services to community organizations

Build Relationships

- *Participate in Community Events:* Attend local festivals, fairs, and other gatherings
- *Join Local Clubs or Organizations:* Connect with people who share your interests
- *Support Local Businesses:* Shop at local stores and restaurants
- *Mentoring:* Share your knowledge and experience with young people
- *Offer Neighborly Assistance:* Help neighbors with tasks like yard work or errands

Your Plan: _____

