

MY NEIGHBOR

by Jane & Jim Jeffries



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**CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS
EDUCATIONAL SERIES**

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Parable: The Good Samaritan

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SYNOPSIS: When Joe wakes up injured and confused at Sa'ud and Aamir's apartment, he assumes he's a hostage. Through hazy recollections of two others passing him by on the street, he realizes the brothers are there to help, not hurt.

BIBLE VERSE: Luke 10:30-37

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 male)

JOE (m)..... A rich man in a rough neighborhood. *(27 lines)*

SA'UD (m)..... A Muslim, friend of Aamir. *(24 lines)*

AAMIR (m) A Muslim who lives in the bad neighborhood.
(25 lines)

DURATION: 5 minutes.

SETTING: A humble apartment in a rough neighborhood

TIME: Present day.

SET

A couch and other items (small table, plant, and/or lamp) as desired.

COSTUMES

Joe wears a suit and tie that is torn and dirty. Optional: use makeup to give him a black eye. Aamir and Sa'ud wear casual clothing.

LIGHTS/SOUND

Flashing red police lights, standard theatrical stage lighting (if available), and the sound of a siren fading into the distance.

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PROPS

- ☐ Ice pack
- ☐ Tray
- ☐ Three mugs

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Parables are earthly stories intended to reveal a heavenly meaning. They are by nature stories that people could relate to and which would inspire questions and discussion, thus providing the opportunity for revelation of the truth. We have brought these parables into present time where the listener can relate and once again ask questions, which will reveal the true meaning.

SCRIPTURE: Taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ®. Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission of Zondervan.

PARABLE: ³⁰A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So, too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' ³⁶"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise" (*Luke 10: 30-37*).



AT START: *Dark stage. Police lights flash by with a siren fading into the distance. Lights up on JOE, who is lying on a couch in a simple apartment. He is beat up and his clothes are torn.*

JOE: *(Sits up slowly, groaning in pain.) What? (Looking around.) Where am I? (Looks at his clothes, feels his face.) What happened to me? (He starts to get up.)*

SA'UD: *(Enters.)* I advise you to stay still.

JOE: *(Looks at SA'UD, alarmed.)* Who are you? Where am I? *(Tries to stand.)*

SA'UD: Don't move.

JOE: Stay back! I'm warning you! *(Stands quickly but starts to reel.)*

SA'UD: *(Rushes over and grabs JOE.)* I told you—

JOE: Let go of me! Let go of me!

SA'UD: *(Lowers JOE back down onto the couch.)* Don't worry. Holding you is not at the top of my wish list. But you are already concussed. I don't think even your hard head could handle another fall.

JOE: What do you want?

AAMIR: (*Enters with ice pack.*) I found an ice pack. (*Notices JOE sitting up.*) Ah, you are finally awake.

JOE: (*Panicky.*) What is this? Am I your prisoner?

AAMIR looks to SA'UD, confused. Then both burst out laughing.

AAMIR: You are speaking out of your head. (*Hands JOE the ice pack.*) Here. You need to bring the swelling down.

SA'UD: No, I think his head is always this swollen.

AAMIR: There's no need to be rude, Sa'ud.

JOE: (*Hesitates, then takes the ice pack.*) I... don't understand. (*Feels around his pockets. Panicky.*) Where's my wallet? Where's my phone?

SA'UD: Oh, those are long gone.

JOE: You can't do this! Why have you done this to me?

AAMIR: Done what to you?

JOE: Why did you kidnap me? I don't work for the government. I'm just a banker—I swear!

SA'UD: I don't understand. (*Beat.*) Do you think you're a hostage?

JOE: Yes.

SA'UD: (*To AAMIR.*) Really? That's always the first thing they go to? I told you this was a bad idea. (*To JOE.*) You watch too much prime-time television.

JOE: What?

AAMIR: He means that you are not a hostage.

SA'UD: And that we aren't terrorists. Aamir found you on the street. We don't know who beat you up. Or took your wallet. Or your phone.

AAMIR: It's a cold night, so I brought you here.

SA'UD: (*Angrily.*) For whatever that is worth.

JOE: Where is here?

SA'UD: This is my home.

JOE: Your home?

AAMIR: Do you know your name?

JOE: Yeah, it's... Joe. Joe Turner.

SA'UD: Aamir found you near 12th Street. Why were you out in this neighborhood in such a fine suit?

JOE: (*Confused.*) I don't remember.

AAMIR: You are lucky they didn't kill you. This is not a safe area.

SA'UD: For many of us. (*Beat.*) I'll get us some tea. (*Exits.*)

AAMIR: (*Pause, to JOE.*) Don't mind Sa'ud.

JOE doesn't register.

AAMIR: His name is Sa'ud.

JOE: And you are?

AAMIR: I am Aamir. So, what do you recall? Can you remember anything?

JOE: I'm trying. I was... meeting a friend. I got lost. Someone... hit me from behind. The rest is just vague images.

AAMIR: Anything else?

JOE: There was a man—no, two men. I... hit something when I fell.

AAMIR: What time were you supposed to meet your friend?

JOE: Eight o'clock.

SA'UD re-enters with tea. He gives a cup to JOE.

AAMIR: You must have been there for several hours. I came by around ten-thirty.

JOE: Ten-thirty? What time is it now?

SA'UD: It's two a.m. You've been out for some time.

AAMIR: Do you remember anything else?

JOE: (*Thinking.*) A bread store. No, the Bread of Life. Does that mean anything?

SA'UD: Yes, you were near the church. The Bread of Life Church is on that block.

JOE: Yes... I remember. I saw a man coming out. He looked at me, then locked the door and went the other direction.

SA'UD: He saw you, but he walked away?

AAMIR: He may have thought it was a set-up. You know, help the man in need and get robbed yourself.

SA'UD: (*To AAMIR.*) So, you're making excuses for them now?

AAMIR: (*To SA'UD.*) I'm not making excuses. You know what it's like to live here.

SA'UD: Yes, all too well. I walk into a shop, and everyone watches me. Or leaves.



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P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

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