

## RESOURCE 3.4

# Alternative contexts: applying the Good Samaritan today

Jesus' parable has often been given a new context: a street gang member helps a train passenger. A Liverpool fan helps an Everton fan. A racist helps some asylum seekers in a small boat. Below, Emilie gives another context for the parable.

Emilie, age 17, from Bolton School, entered the annual NATRE Spirited Arts competition with this piece. Emilie is an atheist but still found meaning in connecting her art to the parable of Jesus. She writes:

Where is God? This is 'The Good Samaritan' from an atheist perspective. I considered the question 'where is god to you?' Although I am an atheist I was able to draw connections from the Bible passage about the Good Samaritan to current events taking place in the chaos of 2020. The reference is from the Black Lives Matter protests in London, where a Black protester helped an 'anti-protester' from a violent scene.

***Who is my neighbour? The one who showed mercy to the person in trouble. You go and do likewise.***



## Thinking things through

What other examples can you think of that would be a parallel to Jesus' parable?

In the gospel account, Jesus ends his story, 'Which of these three was a neighbour to the man who encountered thieves?' The lawyer cannot even bring himself to say 'Samaritan'. Instead, he says, 'The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.' And Jesus tells him (and Jesus-followers today) to go and show mercy to those in need. With a partner, think about whether this command ('go and do likewise')

only applies to Christians, or whether it has power for people outside the Christian community. Give reasons for your answers.

Suggest at least three ways it might make a difference to someone's worldview and way of living if compassion for the vulnerable played a more significant role in their lives.

Respond to the statement: 'You don't have to be a Christian to love your neighbour.' How far do you feel you have a moral duty to love your neighbour?