

Warming up: Something worth telling

Think of something you've seen or experienced that felt worth sharing. It could be a special person you met, a place you discovered, an act of kindness, or a moment that surprised, moved or delighted you.

Share your story in pairs or with the whole group:

- What happened?
- What made it worth telling?
- Who did you tell? How easy was it to share?

This week we're thinking about our call to be witnesses. A dictionary definition of a witness is "a person who sees an event happening, especially a crime or an accident." More broadly, a witness is someone who has seen or experienced something and can tell others about it. As Christians, we bear witness to the goodness God has shown us in Jesus and to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

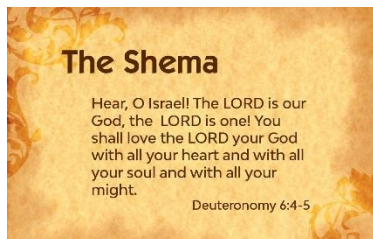
We share with others what we have seen, experienced and come to understand of God. Our witness comes through both our words and the way we live our lives.

On Sunday we heard about the ministry of SAT-7, a Christian media ministry that works with Christians in the Middle East and North Africa. Through television and digital programmes in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, it aims to make the good news of Jesus visible, encourage local Christians and churches, and offer a Christian perspective to people who are asking questions about faith.



Mark 12:28–34 — Love God with your whole life

A scribe asks Jesus which commandment is the most important. Jesus answers by joining two passages from Israel's Scriptures: the call to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and the command to love your neighbour as yourself.



The first is the *Shema*, a central Jewish confession of faith found in Deuteronomy 6. For Jesus love for God is not just a feeling or a private belief. It involves the whole person (thoughts, will, choice, desire, direction, passion, etc.). He also places love of neighbour beside it, showing that devotion to God and care for other people belong together.

The scribe understands that this kind of love matters more than religious activity by itself.

The passage leaves us with a question: what would it look like for this love to shape the way we live?

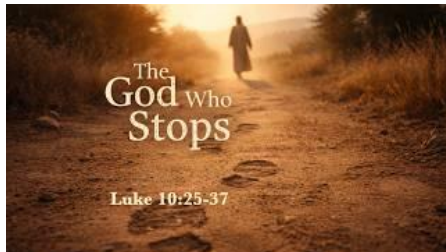
Reflective questions

1. What might it mean to love God with your heart, soul, mind and strength in ordinary life?
2. SAT-7 uses media to share the Christian story and encourage people in faith. What other gifts, skills or opportunities might help us bear witness to God's love?
3. Where might God be inviting you to make his goodness, kindness or faithfulness more visible this week?

Luke 10:25–37 — Who is my neighbour?

A lawyer asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus invites him to answer from the law, and the lawyer names the same two commands: love God with all your being and love your neighbour as yourself.

But then he asks, “Who is my neighbour?”



Jesus responds with the story of a man attacked on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. A priest and a Levite see him but pass by. A Samaritan stops, tends his wounds, takes him to safety and pays for his care.

The story would have unsettled its first hearers. Jews and Samaritans had a long history of religious and social hostility. Jesus makes the Samaritan, not the expected

religious figures, the example of neighbourly love.

He shifts the question from “Who qualifies as my neighbour?” to “How can I become a neighbour to the person in need?”

Reflective questions

1. What details in the story catch your attention?
2. What does the Samaritan do that makes his compassion practical?
3. What might make it difficult for us to notice, approach or help someone in need?
4. How does this story challenge the boundaries we draw around who deserves our care?

The Samaritan does not simply hold a belief about compassion; he acts. His care becomes a visible sign of mercy. Christian witness can work in the same way: practical love does not replace speaking about Jesus, but it gives our words credibility and shows something of the life he offers.

Together, the passages offer a rhythm of grace:

- **Receive:** Notice the love and mercy God has shown us (and is showing you today) in Jesus.
- **Respond:** Love God with our whole selves.
- **Reach out:** Become neighbours through practical kindness and compassion.
- **Bear witness:** Let our words and actions point to God’s goodness and the hope of Jesus.

For this week: What might “go and do likewise” look like in your neighbourhood, workplace, church or family this week?

Loving God, thank you for the love and mercy you show us in Jesus. Help us to receive your grace and love you with our whole selves. Open our eyes to the people around us, and make us ready to reach out to them with words and deed. Guide us in what “go and do likewise” looks like in our homes, workplaces, church and neighbourhood this week. May our words and actions point others to your goodness and the hope we have in Jesus. Amen.