SPECIAL SUNDAY

SERMON STARTER

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

These worship resources are part of the Human Relations Day pastor and leader kit. They can be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit.

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY OVERVIEW

Human Relations Day is more than one special Sunday on the church calendar. It is a reminder of how God's people are called to live every day.

In the Wesleyan tradition, faith is both personal and public.

We love God through prayer, worship, discipleship, and growing in grace.

We love our neighbors through compassion, justice, service, mercy, and community engagement.

This is the work of personal holiness and social holiness.

Human Relations Day reminds the church that faith is not only something we believe inside the walls of the church. Faith is something we live in the world. This is the work of evangelism.

When we actually see our neighbors, we begin to notice:

- All the people carrying pain
- All the people searching for hope
- All the people longing to belong
- All the people needing a second chance
- All the people wondering if anyone truly sees them

Human Relations Day calls the church to become a community where ALL people are seen, valued, and loved.

The Human Relations Day offering supports ministries that help make this possible through:

- Community development
- Volunteer service
- Advocacy
- Youth support and rehabilitation programs
- Ministries of healing, justice, and restoration

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT

Micah 6:6–8
"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?"

Psalm 133:1
"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity."

EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:14
"For Christ is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall."

GOSPEL

Luke 10:25–37
The Good Samaritan

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Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan after someone asks him an important question:

"Who is my neighbor?"

The question was really asking: Who am I responsible for? Who matters? Who deserves my care?

Jesus answers with a story.

A man is beaten, robbed, and left hurting on the side of the road. Several religious people see him and keep walking. But then a Samaritan, someone others looked down on stops, helps, cares for him, and makes sure he is not forgotten.

Jesus makes one thing clear:

Neighbor love is not just about words. It is about action.

Human Relations Day reminds us that following Jesus means learning to really see our neighbors.

Not just the people who look like us. Not just the people who agree with us. Not just the people who are easy to love.

All the people.

The hurting people. The overlooked people. The struggling people. The lonely people. The young people trying to find direction. The people rebuilding their lives. The people society often passes by.

The church is called to see all the people because Jesus saw all the people.

This is not simply charity. This is discipleship.

This is what John Wesley meant when he said:

"There is no holiness but social holiness."

Faith is personal, but it is never private. Loving God always leads us toward loving our neighbors.

Human Relations Day reminds us that the church cannot stay inside the building while communities are hurting outside the walls.

The gospel calls us to:

- Cross the road
- Move toward people
- Listen deeply
- Serve compassionately
- Build relationships
- Create communities where all the people know they matter

The Good Samaritan did not ask: "Whose responsibility is this?"

He simply stopped, showed compassion, and expressed love for his neighbor.

And Jesus tells us today: "Go and do likewise."

SERMON POINTS

1. **See Your Neighbors**
   Many people feel invisible while at the same time standing in crowded places. Jesus reminds us to follow him and embrace all people – all of them.

2. **Love Requires Action**
   The Samaritan did more than feel compassion. He stopped, assisted, paid the entire bill, and went the extra mile for another person. Real faith moves beyond talk and into action, not waiting for others to solve the problem. He stood in the gap in an abundant posture.

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3. **Faith Is Personal (Personal Holiness) and Public (Social Holiness)**
   Loving God and loving neighbors belong together.
   Personal holiness and social holiness are not separate, they work together in tandem, one with another.

4. **The Church Must Go Beyond the Walls**
   Human Relations Day reminds us that ministry happens both inside worship on Sunday and beyond the walls, on Monday - Saturday, out in communities. The church is called to bring hope where there is pain and healing where there is division.

Giving in The United Methodist Church is more than a financial act — it's a bold expression of faith. It fuels ministry across borders, languages, and cultures, and becomes a witness to God's expansive love. **Our generosity opens the door for more people to find their place, share their gifts, and become part of something greater — creating relationships that bring communities closer together.**

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