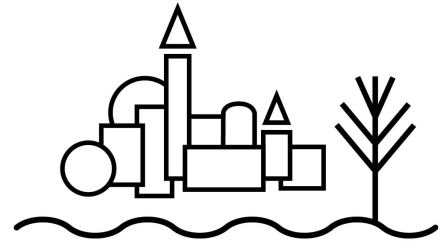


## Connecting with My SINGLE PARENT Neighbor

### Luke 10:29-37



“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” (Phil. 4:13) Such a short phrase with such a powerful message! Life as a single parent is not easy; it seems like all the problems in the world become multiplied times ten; at least that’s how it felt for me. From one day to another I found myself alone in a world meant for two—just me against the world. I had many fears and couldn’t help but wonder, “What am I going to do now? How am I going to provide for my kids? How can I do this by myself?” God was not in the picture at that time. My priorities were work, family, and when I had the time, friends. I didn’t see the harm in those priorities until I lost it all.

My journey has been challenging, but when I felt like everything was lost, God came to my rescue and sent the help I needed. God sent someone to be my neighbor and lead me to Him. I prayed for a miracle and God helped me correct my priorities to God, family, job. He met my needs for a new car, a new job, and a new home. God led me to multiply my income and reduce my debts when I put Him first.

### Reflections

1. Read 2 King 4:1-7. This is a story of the woman who lost her husband and was left alone with two sons, however Elisha came along when this woman needed help the most. I’m sure she asked the same questions I once did, but the story tells us that God used Elisha to guide her. He told her to ask her neighbors for empty vessels, to go to her room and close the doors. She was to fill them with the only thing she had left, a little bit of olive oil. Then God provided oil to fill all the vessels, and enough to sell and pay her debts. She could provide for her family, and her fears were replaced with faith. When have you felt you were at the bottom of the barrel and life was hopeless? Who came to your rescue showing you that God is with us always? How did your story turn out?
2. Timothy was raised by his mother, Eunice and his grandmother, Lois. Read 2 Timothy 1:3-7. What do you think some of challenges were that the two women encountered? What were some of the joys? What are some practical things that you think Eunice and Lois would have appreciated – especially on the hard days? Do you know a modern-day “Eunice and Lois”? What do you think she would appreciate – especially on the hard days?
3. Read Matt. 6:25, 31-33. Take the challenge to worry less and trust God more.

## **A Call to Action**

1. Look around your church or community for the single parent. Ask them how you can lighten their load.
2. In what ways can you be a neighbor to a single parent? Can you entertain the children and give the parent a break? Can you invite them for a meal or take a meal to them as a random act of kindness? What other things can you do to make life easier for your neighbor, the single parent?
3. Are you sometimes judgmental when the single parent cannot keep up with housework, car pools, children's activities, job, yard, and all the things one parent must do for two? Encourage them. In what ways can you affirm them and their children?

## **Prayer**

*Thank you Lord for always being with us even when we feel alone. Thank you for sending help when we need it most. We ask you for wisdom to understand your plan for our lives, courage to look for you when our fears surround us, and strength when we feel we can't go on. Help us be a light for our neighbors in need and may they feel your presence always. Teach us to trust you in all things. Amen*

## **ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Judith Seva became a single mom in 2012. In 2013, she was looking to God for a miracle and that was the beginning of her relationship with God. In 2014, God opened doors for a position that allowed her to live with her priorities: God, family, and job. In 2015, God opened more doors allowing Judith to attend Bethel University as a candidate for ministry. Judith says, "I now have a better home, a more secure job, and opportunities to serve in my church as an elder and a member of the worship group." Judith is the parent of Mariana (age 10) and Carlos (age 9).