

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Introduction:

This is merely a discussion guide for you and your Life Group. There is not any expectation for you to be a Bible scholar or the wisest person in the room. The expectation is that you would pray to God, asking Him to illumine your heart and mind as you walk through these verses. Life Groups are designed to cultivate an environment where reading Scripture, engaging in prayer, and being in biblical fellowship will flourish. Facilitating such an environment is all that we ask, we don't seek perfection. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you, and if you have any concerns after your group conversation, please reach out. Today's passage is Luke 10:25-37 and it is the parable of the Good Samaritan. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for this passage, you can find the content on pages 1573-1574. - JF

Questions:

Take a moment to think back to your childhood. Who were your physical neighbors? Do you remember anything special (good or bad) about them? Who are your neighbors now? How often do you interact with them? How have you shown love to them in the last year? *(The parable of the Good Samaritan is not about our physical neighbors, it's about loving and serving all people, but our physical neighbors are a good starting point for our discussion today.)*

We find ourselves in the middle of the sermon series "Exiles: Purpose for Exiles." In your own words, what has the series been about? Why do you say this? What impact has this series made in your life so far? If it has not, why do you think that is?

What is the context of today's passage? What question was Jesus asked? Have you ever asked the same question? Why is this an important question? Jesus responds to the lawyer after a little back and forth, prompting the man to ask a second question. Do you find yourself seeking to justify your choices or ideas by asking clarifying questions of God? If so, what was the last thing you sought to justify yourself about? How do you see that situation more clearly now? If you don't seek to justify yourself before God, how have you learned to not do such a thing?

Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan in response to the man's second question. How would you paraphrase the parable? Why did Jesus tell this parable in response to the lawyer's question? What impact might it have made to the hearers that day? What impact does it make on your life right now? How are you currently living out loving your neighbors?

Consider the priest and Levite that come along the road. What might have caused them to step around the man that was injured? Why did the Samaritan help the man? How did you come to that conclusion? What danger is there in overanalyzing (or justifying) the reasons why the first two men didn't serve/love the injured man? What are some of the reasons we don't serve others? Think about yourself for a moment, when was the last time you ignored serving someone? Did God convict you for not serving that individual? What has changed about the way you view serving? Why is loving and serving people a good indicator for a person's relationship with Jesus? How do you feel about the way you serve? Where can you grow in this area?

If you were in the service on Sunday, what were the points that Pastor Kevin made regarding this passage? Is there anything else that stood out to you that you would like to discuss from this passage or from how you are going to apply the truth to your life?

Conclusion:

As a group, you might consider spending the rest of your time planning a day and time that you will serve as a group. This could be with one of our missions partners or someplace where you already have a relationship. The goal is to serve people so that you can love them and love God. If your group is unable to serve together in the immediate timeframe, can you plan something for a future date? Or can each individual commit to serve within a short timeframe to love others? After spending time planning a serve date, take time to offer words of encouragement and prayer for one another.