

Storyteller Week One: The Good Samaritan

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Read Matthew 13:11-17. Jesus didn't tell parables to make everything clear. Jesus wanted to engage people with a story and invite them to see God working in the world from a new perspective from what they understood. Does it frustrate you that parables sometimes aren't clear to the original listener and to us as we read them today? Why or why not?

- 2.) Read Luke 10:25-37 and the parable of the Good Samaritan. The law expert asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" By focusing on life after death, the law expert is missing the importance of how Jesus' followers live on earth. What do you learn from Jesus' response?

- 3.) After Jesus tells the parable, he asks the law expert, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" In the response, we recognize the law expert's discomfort. Samaritans were enemies of the Jewish people, and with the story, Jesus shows that everyone deserves love. In asking Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" he hoped Jesus would give him evidence of there being people he didn't need to love. Put yourself in the law expert's shoes. Who would be a Samaritan to you? How difficult is it to imagine Jesus calling you to love someone you consider an enemy? Spend time in prayer and ask God to help you grow to love even your enemies.