

## Love Your Neighbor: Week 4

### Life Questions

1. What lessons did you learn from your time in the Word this week?
2. Who did you share the gospel with?
3. What has God done in your life that's encouraging over the past 2 weeks?

### Who Is Your Neighbor?

Read *Luke 10:25-37*

“Go and do the same.” Jesus doesn’t just end the parable by answering who our neighbor is; He calls us to follow this example and show our neighbors compassion. It’s easy to go about our daily lives without seeing the neighbors around us. We may wave to our next door neighbors from the safety of our yard or make small talk with our co-workers. Sometimes we hear someone share a sad story, sympathize for a moment, and then continue about our days without giving it a second thought.

The truth is there are neighbors all around us looking for care, compassion, and love; people who have no hope and don’t know the mercy or grace of the one true God. In this story Jesus answers the question “who is my neighbor” with “to whom should I be a neighbor.” In the culture of the time it was unthinkable for the Samaritan to help a Jew. The priest and the Levite who would naturally be friends and neighbors with Jewish man would be expected to stop and help. It was the Samaritan, someone who otherwise would never have a relationship or interact with the wounded man who showed care, compassion, and love. Ultimately the care, compassion, and love that was shown to the neighbor was a perfect expression of how we are called to love our neighbors as God loves us.

### Discussion Questions

1. In verse 27 we once again see the two greatest commandments. During the first week we talked about barriers to loving God with all of our hearts, minds, and souls. Have you made any progress in removing these barriers?
2. Jesus purposefully chose a Samaritan to be the good neighbor in this story as the Samaritans were thought to be inferior to the Jewish people. What group of people do you view as Samaritans in your life? Why do you view them as your Samaritan? Do you have any relationships with this group of people? How can you overcome the bias that you have?
3. The Samaritan didn’t just give money to the man, take him to the city gates, or pass him off to the next person going towards the city. He took ownership of the man’s care and continued to give him the best he could afford. Who has God put into your life to be a good Samaritan to?
4. The Samaritan didn’t just help the man once and then leave him alone. He provided for his immediate care and made plans for the future. Being a neighbor is not about one time acts of kindness, but developing relationships and understanding how to care for the root of other’s problems. What does it look like to be a good Samaritan today?

### Application Step

Frequently pride makes us think we’re better than others. It’s important to remember that apart from the saving grace of Jesus we are all sinners. Ask God to make you more aware of your neighbors and for a heart of care, compassion, and love towards them. Ask for the ability to view our neighbors how He does through an eternal mindset. Reach out and start to be a good Samaritan to someone who is different than you this week.