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## Big Idea Discussion Guide

The world is in great crisis...but too often we only hear about the crisis involving celebrities and American politics. If we are not careful, we will adopt a mentality of only helping local, visible people in need and ignoring the great needs in our world today. That's not what God wishes for us to do...and a brief look into his teaching and the real world news should help us to change our focus, hopefully in a way that leads to our adoption of a habit for helping others.

**BIG IDEA: Loving Your Neighbor = Seeing and Serving Strangers in Need**

### SCRIPTURE:

Jesus ministry involved drawing crowds of people in desperate need out into the open. This is how he reacted:

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." ~ Matthew 9:36-38*

*You will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ~ Acts 1:8-9*

**25** Just then an expert in the law stood up to test Him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? "

**26** "What is written in the law? " He asked him. "How do you read it? "

**27** He answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.

**28** "You've answered correctly," He told him. "Do this and you will live."

**29** But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor? "

**30** Jesus took up the question and said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. **31** A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. **34** He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.'

**36** "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? "

**37** "The one who showed mercy to him," he said.

Then Jesus told him, "Go and do the same." **(Luke 10:25-37, HCSB)**





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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Take out your phones and have a look at the news. What's the most shocking world story you can find of people who need help? Do you think that story represents the world today?
2. What other things do you use to get an accurate picture of the world?
3. Have you traveled abroad? Discuss your observations of the world while traveling. Did it give you a better perception of the world? Why or why not?
4. What about Clarksville: what needs are you aware of in our city? Are they easily seen or hidden from society at large?
5. Watch the Good Lie. Have you ever met a refugee? Perhaps you can find one in Clarksville and interview them...
6. Read Jesus words. Do you feel the church is doing a good job of heeding these words?
7. What habits do you have that cause you to serve people on a regular basis?
8. Create a list of six habits you can try out to serve people more regularly. Test them all out this next month and discuss the results with friends.



the  
Good Lie