



Stories that
change everything.

STORIES THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING, PART 3: LEFT

Jesus told us to love our neighbors as ourselves. But that's easier said than done. Which people qualify as neighbors, and which don't? How far does our responsibility to others extend? If we make the effort to move toward the messes in other people's lives, how inconvenient is too inconvenient? How unsafe is too unsafe? How dangerous is too dangerous? What are the limits to loving others as we love ourselves?

BIG IDEA: God cares more about their eternity than your need to be right.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

** Remember the goal is to use the questions to generate discussion, not to complete every one.*

1. Can you disagree with someone and love them just the same? Who are some people with whom you especially disagree? Do you treat these kinds of people different than others in your life?
2. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read Luke 10:25-37](#).*

²⁵ One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" ²⁷ The man answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" ²⁹ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. ³¹ "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³² A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. ³³ "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴ Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, "Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.' ³⁶ "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. ³⁷ The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

[Luke 10:25-37 \(NLT\)](#)

3. Which person or group of people are you tempted to disqualify from "neighbor" status?
4. We need to view neighboring not as a mission to accomplish, but relationships to cultivate. How does this shift affect our view of neighboring? What are some practical ways you can cultivate neighboring relationships?
5. In verses 26-28, what does Jesus tell the expert in the law he must DO in order to inherit eternal life?
6. In verse 29, how does the expert respond, and why?
7. What does the expert learn about being a neighbor when Jesus tells him the story of the Good Samaritan?
8. Why do you think Jesus tells him what to DO again in verse 37?

9. Most of us judge others by external factors and judge ourselves by intentions, effort, and heart. We tend to think better of ourselves than others. Is this true of you? How can we see others differently?
10. The Good Samaritan's choice was risky and inconvenient for him, but he still stopped. Who have you stopped for? Was there a time you walked by?
11. The way Jesus tells the story puts the Jewish man in a vulnerable spot. The Samaritan comes along and helps him out—extending love to him across political, religious, and social lines. What is so significant about the Samaritan helping a Jew in need? Who is God calling you to love even though it might be inconvenient, dangerous, or expensive?

MOVING FORWARD

When Jesus told us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, he had something radical in mind. He was challenging us to see others' messes as opportunities, not inconveniences. He was calling us to put others ahead of ourselves just as he put us ahead of himself.

Choose someone from your neighborhood that you do not know so well and commit to engage with them differently this week. What will the next steps look like? How can you break the barriers to building authentic relationships?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:29 (NLT)