



Sermon Discussion Guide: Be Curious, Not Creepy

Series: *If You Give a Neighbor a Cookie*

Date: 09/14/2025

Scripture: Luke 10:25–37 (NRSVue)

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, thank you for showing us what love looks like through the life and teachings of Jesus. As we reflect on the story of the Good Samaritan, soften our hearts to notice those around us. Teach us to be curious in a way that reflects your compassion—not judgmental, not fearful, not indifferent. May we become neighbors who reflect your mercy. Amen.

Introduction & Context

Last week, we started with a simple invitation: say hello. This week, Jesus takes us deeper through the Parable of the Good Samaritan, one of his most radical and challenging teachings. This story is Jesus' response to two questions:

1. "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"
2. "And who is my neighbor?"

Rather than offer a legal answer, Jesus tells a story that reframes everything—about love, boundaries, and what it means to be a neighbor.



Discussion Questions

1. Eternal Life & the Greatest Commandment

- What stands out to you about the interaction between Jesus and the lawyer in Luke 10:25–28?
- Why do you think the lawyer follows up with “And who is my neighbor?” What’s behind that question?

2. Seeing and Responding

- In the story, three people see the injured man. What makes the Samaritan’s response different?
- What needs or people might you be tempted to “pass by” in your own neighborhood?

3. Crossing Lines

- Why is it significant that Jesus made the *Samaritan* the hero of this story?
- What kinds of social, political, or religious “lines” do we use today to justify distancing ourselves from others?

4. Curiosity vs. Judgment

- “Be curious, not judgmental” is often misattributed to Walt Whitman, but it’s a helpful posture. How can curiosity lead us to love better?
- What does “be curious, not creepy” mean to you in the context of building relationships with your neighbors?

5. Mercy as a Way of Life

- The lawyer identifies the Samaritan as “the one who showed him mercy.” What does mercy look like in daily life?
- How do we cultivate a posture of mercy—especially when we have the power to judge, ignore, or harm?

6. Jesus as the True Neighbor

- How might the Samaritan be a mirror of Jesus himself?
- How does seeing ourselves as the “man in the ditch” shape the way we offer grace to others?





Application & Challenge: P.A.R.

Use the **P.A.R.** framework this week to take a simple, intentional step:

- **Pray:** Ask God to help you see someone “in the ditch” this week—someone in need of kindness, attention, or healing.
- **Act:** Move toward them with compassion. Maybe it’s listening, offering help, or simply showing up.
- **Reflect:** What was that experience like? What barriers did you feel? How might Jesus be inviting you to love more boldly?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, you saw us in our brokenness and didn’t pass us by.

You drew close with healing, mercy, and grace.

Help us see others the same way—not as strangers or problems, but as neighbors.

Make us bold enough to cross boundaries, slow down, and offer love without expecting anything in return.

May our mercy reflect yours. Amen.

Key Takeaway

Neighboring isn’t about obligation—it’s about living with eyes wide open and hearts ready to move. When we show mercy, we don’t just reflect Jesus—we meet him again.

This guide was developed from original content with the assistance of ChatGPT.