



DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 1: THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Read the Text
Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii^[a] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

Main Point

This week, we launched our 10-week series on the parables in the gospel of Luke. To Christians or those who grew up in the Church, parables can feel very familiar. They can seem like relatable little life lessons on how to be, how to live, and what to do. As we study them though, we find that there is actually great complexity to the parables. The parables both conceal truth to those who are not ready to hear about the kingdom of God, as well as reveal truth to those who are. And as we see in this parable about the good Samaritan, *the kingdom of God will challenge the heart of even God's most committed and loyal followers*. The lawyer who approached Jesus had all the answers, but was challenged to take the truths he was able to recite and actually put them into practice.

This parable isn't simply about being a "good person" or showing mercy though. With the priest and Levite who walk past the beaten man, we see that *God is calling us to sacrifice more than we think*. The Samaritans and Jews despised one another. Jesus isn't just calling this man to love His God-worshipping, temple-going fellow Jew. He's calling Him to love and show hospitality to his enemy. We are called to do the same. Following Jesus requires great sacrifice. It means stepping out of our comfort zone and showing love and hospitality to those who are different than us and who disagree with us.

Loving those who are different than us may seem daunting and uncomfortable. But the good news is that we're not alone in figuring out how to practice hospitality. *Jesus isn't asking us to do anything that He wasn't willing to do Himself*. Jesus also served Samaritans. He ate meals with the most despised members of Jewish society. And what's more – WE were even considered enemies of God once, and God welcomed us into His family. We have access to the Spirit and God's word. We are able to learn from Jesus and His example, and He invites us to follow Him and do the same things that He did.

Reflect Together

1. How have you experienced receiving hospitality? How did it reflect the love of Jesus?
2. What does loving the stranger look like for you right now? Where do you think you could grow in this area?
3. What kind of resistance do you feel about practicing hospitality to those who are different from you?

Abide Together

Share about one person in your life who is not a believer who you could show hospitality to. You don't have to start with inviting them into your home. It can be as simple as grabbing lunch together at work, meeting for a coffee, or meeting at a park somewhere (oh wait, the weather is the worst. Maybe an indoor play place?)

Mission Together

The Superbowl is coming up! Consider throwing a Superbowl party together and inviting non-believers from your lives to join you.