

Wednesday

Read: Luke 10:30-35 *Compassion for a man in need*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Think of each person in the story that Jesus tells. Which person are you most like? Least like?*
2. *What were the possible risks of stopping to help the man? Think of times you have helped others. In helping them, what were the risks to you?*

Prayer Focus: Eternal God, you know that I struggle to love certain people, certain groups. I have problems with seeing them as worthy, as if that was any of my business. Sometimes, others make it really hard to love and serve them. Open my eyes to see, God of All. Deepen my understanding.

Thursday

Read: Luke 10:36 *Which one was a neighbor?*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How did Jesus reword the lawyer's question in v.36?*
2. *How did Jesus' question change the conversation?*

Prayer Focus: Redeemer, you were someone who was wounded and left for dead. Yet you have never stopped being the one who offers love and forgiveness and healing to me, and to all people.

Friday

Read: Luke 10:37 *The way of compassion*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *The lawyer knows the letter of the law. Does he give the right answer at the end?*
2. *How easy is it to "go and do likewise?" What has to happen for us to follow Jesus' way?*

Prayer Focus: Holy God, let me grasp what it means to come near to others, and to really see them. Let me know that everyone lives in my neighborhood. Everyone is in the family.

Compassion for Our Neighbor

Luke 10:25-37 Parable of the Good Samaritan
"Action with and for those who suffer is the concrete expression of the compassionate life and the final criterion of being a Christian." Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*

Message Notes:

Small Group Format



Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Share a time when someone was a good neighbor to you, or when you had the chance to be a good neighbor to someone else.*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

- Have someone read: **Luke 10:25-37**
- Discuss observations about the text.
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

July 21, 2019
Compassion

Monday

Read: Luke 10:25-28 “*What must I do to inherit eternal life?*”

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *The lawyer knew Jewish law inside and out. Why did he ask what he had to do to inherit eternal life?*
2. *Jesus says the lawyer gave the right answer. What did that answer require the lawyer to do?*

Prayer Focus:

Blessed One, forgive us when we want to reap the rewards without having any relationship with the one who gives. Be patient with us when we can recite the right answers but not understand how to live them out.

Tuesday

Read: Luke 10:29 “*Who is my neighbor?*”

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *When we try to justify ourselves, what are we trying to prove?*
2. *Do you think the lawyer was in earnest, or out to trick Jesus with this question?*

Prayer Focus:

God of Compassion, it's tempting to care more for appearances, to make sure I look good even if I'm not doing good. It's tempting to limit you by trying to exclude others. Show me another way.