

For the Family

Tell or Read the Story from Luke 10:25-37

Explain how surprising it was for the priest and the Levite to not help and for the Samaritan to help.

The people who heard this story would have respected the priest and the Levite. They would have expected them to help. Instead they made excuses and went on their way.

Now Samaritans were not liked very much by the people who originally heard this story. They would have expected a Samaritan to ignore the man, or even to finish him off. Instead he took great risks and helped the man.

Who is the hero of our story? The one who helped.

Read together James 2:15-16 (NCV): A brother or sister in Christ might need clothes or food. If you say to that person, "God be with you! I hope you stay warm and get plenty to eat," but you do not give what that person needs, your words are worth nothing.

Talk together about the difference between wishing someone well, and doing something for them.

For example, suppose you're skateboarding with one of your friends, and he wipes out and hurts himself. What's the best way to help?

- Ignore him. He can take care of himself.
- Go to him, and say, "I'm sorry you hurt yourself. I hope you feel better."
- Go to him, and help him.

Jesus wants us to help others. He wants us to notice them, to feel compassion for them, and to do something for them, if we can.

Memory Verse – Luke 10:27:

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." 4



The Journey of Discipleship

A "Good" Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Last Week: Jesus expanded his mission by sending out 72 missionaries, in pairs, ahead of him. He told them to pray for more laborers; there weren't nearly enough. He gave them instructions to travel light, stay in one place at a time, and accept whatever was put before them. If they were rejected, they were to shake the dust off their sandals, declare that the kingdom of God had come near, and move on to another village. They came back with amazing reports of powerful deeds. Jesus told them it was even better that their names were written in heaven, and they were blessed to see and hear things that even God's prophets and kings hadn't seen or heard.

This Week: A lawyer asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asks him what is written in the law. The man responds, "To love God and one's neighbor." Jesus commends his answer and tells him to live it out. The lawyer presses Jesus further, asking who his neighbor is. Jesus responds by telling a story where a hated Samaritan helps a man in trouble, after a priest and a Levite had refused to help. "Which of these was a neighbor?" Jesus asks. "The one who showed mercy" the lawyer is forced to respond. Jesus concludes, "Go and do likewise."

Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-10:24

Jesus is determined to go to Jerusalem to fulfill his mission. He sends messengers into Samaria; the Samaritans reject them. He tells three stories of the cost of following him. He sends out more missionaries, who return with stories of their authority over demons.

Jesus commends them, and tells them that Satan is falling from heaven because of their work.

“Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

This Week’s Story: Read Luke 10:25-37

The Conversation

25-29

What question does the lawyer ask Jesus?

How is this question a “test” for Jesus?

Where did the lawyer’s answer come from?

Is this a good answer?

Why does the lawyer ask his second question (vs. 29)?

What do you think he hoped Jesus would say?

Like the lawyer, how often do you try to justify your behavior?

What do you tell yourself to avoid loving someone?

Why is lack of love so easy to justify, even though it is never right?

How would you answer the lawyer’s question?

Who do you consider a neighbor?

The Story

30-35

What is the setting of the story?

Who are the main characters?

What do you think of each of the characters?

What does the priest do?

Why do you think he acted that way?

What would Jesus’ original hearers have expected him to do?

What does the Levite do?

Why do you think he acted that way?

What would Jesus’ original hearers have expected him to do?

What does the Samaritan do? (Find all the *action verbs*)

Why do you think he acted that way?

What would Jesus’ original hearers have expected him to do?

How would you write a modern-day version of this story?

Who would be your characters who passed by?

Who would be your hero?

The Challenge

36-37

What is Jesus’ question?

How does it compare to the lawyer’s question in verse 29?

What is the lawyer’s answer?

Do you think the lawyer liked this answer?

What is Jesus’ challenge?

Has your definition of “neighbor” changed as we have looked at this story?

Steve offered his checklist for helping: *Is it a real need? Am I really helping? Will I jeopardize other commitments I’ve made? Am I refusing because of sin and prejudice? Am I justifying actions? WWJD?*

Is this list helpful? What would you change, if anything?

What do you need to do to be able to say, “I love my neighbor”?

Next Steps:

- I will strive to love God with all my heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love my neighbor as myself.
- I will look and pray for opportunities to show God’s mercy to people.
- I will strive to demonstrate compassion to _____ this week

Memory Verse – Luke 10:27: *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.”*