

# GROWTH + GROUPS

## NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 02.25.2024

THE GOOD SAMARITAN—LUKE 10:25-37

### Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

We begin our story when a lawyer asks Jesus point blank, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" The man was an expert in the Mosaic Law and believes that he must do something to gain everlasting life. Although, "eternal life" certainly describes a quality of life now - most of us think in terms of an afterlife. We think in terms of heaven and hell – reward and punishment. The Bible says that man intuitively knows that we were created to live forever. But he is also aware of his own short-comings and a judgement to come. In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus unveils the true intent of hearts and points to what God truly desires for us all. Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from the Pastor Danny's sermon?
2. What does "compassion" mean? When was the last time someone went out of his or her way to show compassion to you?
3. What things keep us from living lives of compassion?

For many of us, it is easier to define our faith based on what we do not do, rather than on what we do. We often live as if Jesus commanded, "Don't do anything bad to someone else, so that they won't do anything bad to you." But Jesus calls us to much more than not harming others; He calls us to actively seek their good. Today we will learn how to identify and love our neighbor.

### Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 10:25-28

1. Have you ever had anyone ask you a spiritual question in such a point-blank manner? What was it?
2. What do you think was the motive behind the man's question in verse 25? Think about how the lawyer's question was designed to trap Jesus, and how he even answered his own question.
3. When asked by Jesus what the Scriptures taught about receiving eternal life, to what commands did the lawyer refer? Read Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.
4. Why are each of these commands foundational to the life of a Christ follower? What happens if you obey one but not the other?

The commands the expert quoted are found in Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18—"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." On other occasions, Jesus quoted the same commandments and said they were the most important in all of the law (see Matthew 22:35-40 and Mark 12:28-31). The expert in the law correctly understood, but, for Jesus, obedience must accompany knowledge.

## ENCOUNTER GOD in 2024

1. What does it look like in practical terms to love God with your heart, soul, strength, and mind?
2. On the other hand, what actions and attitudes make it evident that you love your neighbor as yourself?

**Jesus charged the scribe with practicing what he knew. He requires His followers to put the law of love into action. Demonstration of love comes as a grateful response to God's love, not as an attempt to win it.**

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 10:29-37

**After an encouraging response from Jesus, the expert in the law asked a clarifying question: "And who is my neighbor?" Instead of answering with another question, Jesus told a parable.**

1. How does Jesus' story expose the man's true motive?
2. What is the most challenging part of Jesus' story to you? Why?

**The priest and the Levite were both coming "down" the road, which refers to leaving Jerusalem, as all the roads to Jerusalem rose in elevation. Thus, these men were likely returning home from some type of service in the temple. According to the law, if people touched a dead body, they were defiled and unclean and would have to make an offering to the Lord to be cleansed—meaning a trip back up to Jerusalem. Helping the man was a great risk if they did not know for certain he was alive. There might have been good—even seemingly "spiritual"—reasons for the men to pass by, and yet they are not commended. The hero of Jesus' story is a Samaritan, one considered to be an outsider by first-century Jews.**

1. Why do you think Jesus chose the Samaritan to be the hero of the story?
2. What was the scope of the Samaritan's sacrifice? What do his instructions to the innkeeper tell you about his compassion?
3. How does Jesus' parable teach us to be compassionate?

**Samaritans were not looked upon favorably in Jesus' time. Jews considered them half-breeds, descended from pagan foreigners and Israelites. And yet, the Samaritan went out of his way to help the injured man; he cared for his wounds and took him to an inn. Not only did he pay for the inn stay, but he told the innkeeper to do whatever was needed above and beyond what he initially paid for, because he would reimburse him. The Samaritan was asking the innkeeper to take advantage of his generosity. Jesus showed that loving one's neighbor is an active pursuit.**

1. More than just physically crossing the road when we see a homeless person, how do we "pass by on the other side" when we see people in need?
2. What will move us to compassion for a human need?

**Helping people is rarely convenient, but it is always Christlike. After Jesus asked the expert in the law if he understood who the real neighbor was, He gave one final command: "Go and do the same" (v. 37). In the original language of this verse, the verb "do" implies habitual action—an action that should be common to us.**

**Applying God's Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**As Christians, we show compassion to others because we know what it looks like to receive compassion. Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan demonstrates what it means to truly love one's neighbor.**

1. What things in your life—even seemingly “spiritual” things—might cause you to look the other way when there is a person in need?
2. In what ways have you seen people interrupt their normal routine to take compassionate action on behalf of another? Which people or groups do you find it difficult to aid?

**PRAYER: Thank God for the compassion He showed us by sending His Son. Praise Him for His wisdom and grace. Ask God to help your group live out the compassion that Christ first gave them. Pray that God would provide opportunities to serve others with love and compassion.**

**"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' {Matt. 25:40}**