

# Who Is My Neighbor?

*Luke 10:25-37*  
*Pastor Paul Springer*

## Personal Connection (25 minutes)

### Icebreaker

Q. Living where we do, we are all a part of at least one community. Think about the various communities to which you belong. Share with the group.

Q. First, define what the word *neighbor* means to you. Then, respond to the following:

- 1) Have you been a good neighbor?
- 2) Have others been a good neighbor to you?

### Ups and Downs

Q. Share with the group some of the highs and lows of your past week, remembering to share praises.

### Sharing Christ

Q. Have you had the opportunity to share Christ with your neighbor?

Q. Would you like to share but have not felt the right opportunity come along? Or have you had opportunities but instead felt inadequate or fearful?

### Praying for each other

Reflecting on what others have shared with the group, take some time now to pray. Ask someone in the group to pray for spiritual strength and guidance to grow in areas of vulnerability.

## Digging Deeper (25 minutes)

### This Week's Key Concept

The Christian concept of neighbor is defined less by proximity than by our love for God, flowing intentionally through us to another in a way that reaches needs.

### Read Luke 10:25-37

Note: Here we see that the lawyer is trying to test Jesus, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus responded to the question with a question. "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

By doing this, Jesus was able to engage in dialog with the lawyer, and meet him where he was.

Q. We are all given unique opportunities to express the love of Christ to our neighbor. What are some different, effective ways you've seen people express the love of Christ?

Q. Think about the people in your circle of influence. What are some ways that you can meet them right where they are?

Discuss: The Priest and the Levite witnessed the effect of sin right in front of them but rather than seeking to alleviate it, their actions compounded the suffering. We can't control every situation to prevent sin but we can control how we respond to those hurt by it. Pastor Paul noted that sometimes the struggle is not, "knowing what to do," but more so, "doing what you know you need to do." If willing, please share about a time you've recognized this struggle in your own life.

### **Read Exodus 20:1-17**

Q. If you could divide the Ten Commandments into two major sections, how would you summarize those two commands?

Q. Since God established these two principles to reveal his heart for his people, how should this affect the way we live our lives?

Q. Far too often we try to pull this off in our strength but we find our strength insufficient without Jesus. Have you experienced Christ's grace helping you to love God and/or to love your neighbor? Explain.

### **Impact Questions**

Q. Did the sermon help you to redefine the concept of *neighbor*?

Q. Did the sermon or today's discussion help you envision new ways to be involved in your neighbor's life?

### **What now? (20 minutes)**

Q. Are there specific ways our LIFE Group can help you to minister to your neighbors?

As noted in the sermon, even believers can approach others with the mindset of "Who can I share my blessings with, without disrupting my life or making things inconvenient?" We neglect to realize that God's love for us is not based on convenience. Jesus Christ modeled love based on sacrifice, as his voluntary death paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Q. Is there someone in your life that God has put on your heart to love sacrificially?

Q. What would it take for you to live the Gospel out before your neighbor?

Q. We all have different personalities with different gifts and experiences. Taking this into account, how has God equipped you to share Christ with your neighbor (compassion, generosity, mercy, encouragement, etc.), and what might that look like in your life?

### **Closing Prayer (15 minutes)**

Please share your prayer requests and praises so that your LIFE group can lift them up before God.

Additionally, please pray for expanding Christ's Kingdom through your relationships, in our congregation, to the community, and in distant places.