

Luke 10:25–37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

Just then an expert in the law stood up to test Him [Jesus], saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the law?” He asked him. “How do you read it?”

He answered:

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.

“You’ve answered correctly,” He told him. “Do this and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus took up the question and said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him. When I come back I’ll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.’

“Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

“The one who showed mercy to him,” he said.

Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”

Here are a few more pieces of information that are helpful to know and will aid our understanding and interpretation of this passage:

- We can assume that the man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell victim to the robbers was a Jew.
- The priest and the Levite were Jews and men in positions thought to represent good character and holiness. They were likely people who preached compassion to others.

- Samaria was a nation despised and detested by the Jews. And likewise, anyone from there was also despised by the Jews.

Offer the following questions for those in your group to respond to. Allow for discussion on each question if there is interest among your participants. Encourage them to think out loud and puzzle over how those in the story might have thought or felt. Do **not** simply offer them the answers. If they aren’t on the right track, you can gently challenge their thinking and/or guide them to think more deeply.



What are some of the things that Jesus might have been trying to teach by having the Samaritan, someone hated by the Jews, be the one to show care and kindness toward the Jew in the story?

Did the behavior of the others surprise you? Why or why not?

After reading this story, who would you say your neighbor is?

What are some examples of what our behavior or attitudes toward our “neighbors” should look like? Feel free to use this parable for ideas.

“We must love our neighbours as ourselves, which we shall easily do, if we, as we ought to do, love God better than ourselves. We must wish well to all and ill to none; must do all the good we can in the world and no hurt, and must fix it as a rule to ourselves to do to others as we would they should do to us; and this is to love our neighbour as ourselves.”
(Matthew Henry, comments on Luke 10:25–37)

5. One Another Commandments

**Expectations
Then & Now**

Ruffling Feathers

The Bible teaches us about many kinds of relationships, but there is a particular kind of relationship highlighted throughout the New Testament that is definitely worth noting because of its significance. This is the relationship between believers.

Have you ever heard of the One Anothers? Often the commandments