



WEEK 5 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

Have you ever been blessed by the kindness of a stranger? Have you ever blessed a stranger? Share your story with the group.

CONSIDER

What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

This week, we are looking at the story of the Good Samaritan. A Samaritan is defined as “a charitable or helpful person.”

Read Luke 10:25-29 as a group.

- In this portion of Scripture, we see a very familiar passage that tells us that we should “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength and all your mind.” This was the answer Jesus gave when asked the question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Yet another question followed: “And who is my neighbor?” While this may sound like an easy question, it is important that we understand who our neighbor is if loving our neighbor is a necessary part of inheriting eternal life. **Who do you consider your neighbor to be? Are we to love everyone? Just those who are close to us? How would you answer this question?**
- Another interesting thing happens here; Jesus answers a question with a question. When asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”, Jesus asks, “What does the law of Moses say?” Of course, Jesus did not ask the question because He didn’t know the answer. He realizes that the religious leader asking the question was trying to trip Him up. He wanted to teach him and make a point. Jesus directs the man back to Scripture, knowing that the religious leader would be apt to believe what Scripture said, but also to communicate the importance of knowing what Scripture says. When the leader gives the right answer, Jesus says, “Right ... do this and you will live!” This shows the importance of not only knowing Scripture, but doing what it says. **Is there a time when you focused too much on knowing the Word over doing what it says? Is there a time when you were more focused on doing, than knowing (doing what you thought to be right instead of knowing what Scripture said to do)? What is the proper balance between knowing versus doing?**

Read Luke 10:30-35 as a group.

- The story of the Good Samaritan can simply be interpreted as a story of three men; two who decided not to help a stranger in need and one who did. However, it is much deeper than that. The context is important. The first person passing by the injured man was a priest, a religious man, who, by vocation, certainly would have known God's law of love. However, he did nothing to help. Similarly, the next person, a Levite, those of Jewish descent who would have adhered strictly to the law, as well. Again, he chose not to help. However, the Samaritan did help. Samaritans were considered inferior in race and religion to the Jewish people. Centuries before, Samaritans were Jews who intermarried with non-Jews and did not keep all the Jewish laws. However, this Samaritan was the hero of Jesus' story. It doesn't matter how well you know Scripture or in which race, class, or religion you were born. If we do not show the love of Christ, we are not living as we should. **Do you feel many Christians get this wrong? If so, how?**
- Sometimes as Christians, we might know the characteristics we are to show as followers of Christ. What gets confusing is the extent to which we are supposed to display that characteristic. We are taught to be giving and generous, but does that mean we are to sell everything we own and give everything we have to those less fortunate? However, while knowing if we should try to help everyone can be confusing, there is a portion of Scripture (Luke 10:31) that shows us what we are to do with the people we come across when we find them on the same road at the same time as ourselves. **Has there been a time in your life when God put someone in need on the same road as you and you failed to recognize the need or even failed to act if you did? Is there someone in your life now that God has put in your path that you can bless with your time, your talent, or your treasure? Share this with your group. Maybe there is someone your group can come alongside.**

CALLING

- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text DEVO to 81212 or use the Study tab in Northside's mobile app for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** *"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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*
Luke 10:27 (NIV)
- **Further Study:** Study some of these other Scriptures about loving your neighbor:
 - Matthew 19:19
 - Matthew 22:36-40
 - John 15:12
 - Romans 13:8-10
 - Romans 15:2
 - Galatians 5:14
 - 1 John 4:21