

“And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29) Pastor Don Brock

### Discussion Guide

*Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!*

#### Open

As our country wrestles with the strain of ensuring that it reflects the intrinsic value of all people (in affirmation of the truth of Genesis 1:27 - “So God created man in His own image...”), this week Pastor Don talks with Ray Washington, pastor of East Lake Community Church in Irmo, about how followers of Jesus can help lead in practical next steps as a compassionate community. The types of societal tensions we’re currently experiencing are of course not new, and in our passage for study today (Luke 10:25-37) Jesus gives us the simple yet incredibly demanding answer for how we can do our part to bring healing. To get your conversation started today, let everyone in the group share about a time they helped (or were helped by) someone they didn’t previously know...

#### BIG THOUGHT

In the parable about the good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us that God’s desire is for us to show love to our hurting neighbors through empathy and courageous action.

1. Although Jesus’ parable of the good Samaritan is one of the His most widely known teaching stories, it’s important to understand the conversation that prompted Him to use it as an illustration. Read Luke 10:25-26. What was the background of the one who asked Jesus a question? Why did he ask? What were the two parts of Jesus’ response? (v. 26) Why do you think Jesus wanted the man to have to give his personal opinion?
2. Read v. 27-28. What does the man say? How do you hear Jesus’ tone when He affirms the man’s response - encouraging? Dismissive? Ready to move on? Would you have been pleased if Jesus had responded to you like this? Why or why not?

3. Now read v. 29. What does the author (Luke) want us to know about the man’s motivation for his next question? What issue do you think the man is wanting to be “justified” about? Why? What do you think the man’s response *should* have been?
4. Read v. 30-32. Everyone in Jesus’ original audience knew that the road between Jerusalem and Jericho was treacherous, and many probably had personal experience with its dangers. What would you have expected the (Jewish) priest to have done? What about the Levite? What potential reason could there have been for not stopping (see Numbers 19:11-13)? What is the tension Jesus is pointing to here?
5. Now read v. 33-35. What is the first response of the Samaritan toward the wounded traveler? (v. 33) What practical and expensive care follows? (v. 34-35) How does it change your understanding of the story to learn that Jewish people and Samaritans had a mutual dislike of each other based on centuries of conflict? What parallels can you find in our world today?
6. To finish, read v. 36-37. How does Jesus’ question immediately cut to the heart of the issue? What does Jesus tell the man to do in v. 37? How can we obey that same directive in our own relationships today?

#### Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for each person who has been a “good Samaritan” to help you in your life, then ask Him to give you a soft heart and willing hands to act with empathy and courage when others need you to do the same for them.

#### Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Romans 13:10

Day 2: 1 Peter 4:8

Day 3: Proverbs 21:3

Day 4: Micah 6:8

Day 5: 1 John 3:16

Day 6: 1 John 4:7

Memory Verse: Luke 10:33