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WEEK 1 WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

WARM UP

Have you met your neighbours that live next door? If so, what are they like?



Read Luke 10:25-37

Jesus tells the parable popularly known as the *Good Samaritan* in response to being approached by a Jewish lawyer who was trying to test Him by asking, "Who is my neighbour?" In this parable, we, too, can see who our neighbour is, and how we are to respond in loving them as we love ourselves.





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The Beaten Man: "Unsuspecting Victim"

²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.

Luke 10:29-30 (ESV)

We note that the man is walking along the most prominent road in the area of Judea, and that the road is also a place infamous for bandits. Although it might be assumed that the man is Jewish because of the road location, the parable doesn't say much more about him, so he could have been anyone.

• God is in pursuit of you with His relentless love that will not give up on you. How will you respond?

2 The Priest: "Positional Religious Representative"

³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:31 (ESV)

The priest is someone who holds a revered position in Jewish custom and is generally tasked with special authority to perform certain sacred rituals, as a representative of God.

• What was the Priest's response upon seeing the man left half dead along the road?

3 The Levite: "Generational Religious Representative"

³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

Luke 10:32 (ESV)

The Levite holds the position of a special priest, not only because they are competent, but also because they are *born* into the tribe of Levi.

• What was the Levite's response upon seeing the man left half dead along the road?

4 The Innkeeper: "Accommodation Provider"

³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'

Luke 10:34-35 (ESV)

The Innkeeper has a place of comfortable lodging made available for guests that may come and need a place to rest.

- What *should be* the response of the innkeeper towards the man left half dead along the road?
- Which of these four characters do you identify with the most when it comes to seeing and responding to hurt or broken people?

PRAYER

- Pray that God would give us the heart of Christ towards our neighbours. Christ is embodied in this parable as being the Good Samaritan, who comes down to tend to us in our brokenness, and carries us towards the inn (the Church) to be taken care of.
- Pray for the broken that God has brought into the inn, that they may experience His healing and that the Church would be faithful in tending to them.
- Pray for the heart to walk on the same side as the broken, and that God would use us to bring His healing and restoration to them.