



October 22nd, 2017 Discussion Guide

Questions Jesus Asked: “Who Is My Neighbor?”

Luke 10:25-37

Introduction

The story of the Good Samaritan recorded in Luke 10:25-37 is well known among both believers in Christ, and those who don't believe. We even have a hospital in Cincy named after it. The parable has staying power because it resonates with us. We know that if everyone treated each other more like that Samaritan did, the world would be a better place. When we dig into the story we understand that Jesus is talking about more than just dedicating ourselves to being kind and generous. Let's start digging.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe a time when you were either rescued by a Good Samaritan, or you were a Good Samaritan on behalf of someone else? It can be a simple or small circumstance.
2. If someone were to approach you, and test you, and ask you what is necessary in order to obtain eternal life, are you comfortable with the answer Jesus gave? Could you comfortably say what he said and leave it at that?
3. Jesus went out of his way to drive home the point that everyone we encounter is our neighbor and deserves our respect and help if needed. He went so far as to use a compassionate Samaritan man as the good example of what it means to care for one's neighbor and honor God in the process.
 - This is uncomfortable, but if you had to name a type of person that it is difficult for you to love, and maybe to believe that God loves, who would that be? For the Jews it was Samaritans. Who is it for you?
 - How are you able to overcome those feelings? Or are you unable to? Have you experienced any growth in this area to the point that you now connect with people who formerly you would avoid and even dislike?



4. In Matthew 25:23-24, Jesus tells his Jewish followers that a relationship with God is tied to our relationship with others and our willingness to love others. Religious ritual can never compensate for refusing to mend a broken relationship. Is there anything like that going on in your life right now? What do you think God wants you to do about it?

5. On Sunday morning, the subject of immigration was touched on. That is a hot political issue. Do you find what Jesus said in Luke 10 regarding people of other faiths and other races, informative as to what our response should be to those coming to us from other countries? If Christians don't reach out to immigrants in friendship, where else will they likely learn of Jesus? What factors make us hesitant to reach out?

6. In Ephesians 2:14-22 we find a description of how the sacrifice of Jesus is a divine act that brings God and people together, and brings disparate groups together. When it was written, it addressed the divide between Jews and Gentiles. How can the work of Christ bridge present-day racial divides, social divides, cultural divides, religious divides? Practically – how can that happen? Have you seen it happen? Are you willing to help make it happen?

Moving Forward:

Sunday October 22 is Random Acts of Kindness Day, according to a large banner out on Beechmont Avenue. Perhaps you and your group could form a plan to generate some random act of kindness that would catch someone completely off guard and communicate to them the totally non-random love of Christ.