

I. Check-In

- Check in. How is everyone doing? Were you less critical of your neighbor this week?

II. Scripture

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with 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, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:25-37

V. Prayer Requests

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

IV. Challenge

Take a practical step to be a neighbor to someone who is hurting or vulnerable in your community.

III. Discussion Questions

- Who are our neighbors in need today? Who are those who have been “left on the side of the road?”
- In the parable, the priest and the Levite passed by the man in need. Why do you think it’s often easier to avoid helping others, and how can we develop a mindset of being a “neighbor” in our daily interactions?
- What barriers—social, cultural, or personal—do you think prevent people from loving their neighbors, especially those who are different from them? How can we overcome those barriers in our own lives?
- Jesus challenges the lawyer to “go and do likewise.” What practical steps can you take this week to be a neighbor to someone who is hurting or vulnerable in your community? How can we hold each other accountable for taking action?

See the next page for more to think about.

Did You Know?

Gustavo Gutiérrez is a Peruvian theologian and Dominican priest, widely recognized as the founder of **Liberation Theology**, a movement that emerged in Latin America in the 1960s and 1970s. His work focuses on the relationship between Christian theology and social justice, particularly emphasizing the need for the Church to side with the poor and oppressed. Central to Gutiérrez's theology is the idea that God has a special concern for the poor and marginalized. He argues that Christian discipleship must involve a "preferential option for the poor," meaning that Christians should prioritize the needs of the poor and work to address systemic injustice that keeps them oppressed.


Quotes + Scriptures


- **James 2:15-16** -- "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?"
- **Gustavo Gutiérrez** -- "True justice is not merely about retribution; it's about lifting up the broken."
- **Proverbs 31:8-9** -- "Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. 9 Speak out; judge righteously; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.** -- "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

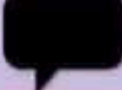
Love Your
Neighbor


who doesn't

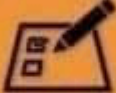
 Look like you

 Think like you

 Love like you

 Speak like you

 Pray like you

 Vote like you

Love Your Neighbor

No exceptions

Which of
these is
difficult for
you?