

The stories Jesus told.

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?” The man answered, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’”

“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbour to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.”

Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.” **Luke 10: 25-37 (NLT)**

1. The Lawyer – You cannot justify yourself. You cannot earn eternal life; it is an inheritance for God’s children.
2. The Traveler – sometimes people make poor decisions and bring trouble on themselves – love them anyway!
3. The Bandits – There are always people looking to hurt someone for money.

4. The Priest and the Temple Assistant – it’s easy to make excuses.
5. The Good Samaritan – The one who helps regardless of personal risk or personal cost.
6. Me and you - **Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”**

For your small group:

You may want to select from the following questions.

1. Kevin said, A parable is a story that keeps you occupied at the front door while the truth sneaks in the back window.” Was there a truth in this week’s message that sneaked into your mind? Perhaps something you hadn’t seen in the story before.
2. Look at the characters in the story:
 - Who might these people be today?
 - What if the injured person were someone from a different ethnic group than yours? Would you stop to help?
 - Why do you think the two Jews walked away from him?
 - Why was it so unusual for a Samaritan to stop and tend to the man's wounds?
3. Which person in the story behaved most like Jesus? What does that tell us about Him and about what it means to follow Him?
4. Can you think of other “unlikely” people Jesus helped in his ministry?
5. What would it mean for you to, “Go and do the same”?