



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Preached by Daniel Grothe

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Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

Pastor Daniel teaches on the Parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10, emphasizing that this story was more shocking to Jesus' original audience than we realize. In Jesus' time, Samaritans were considered 'half-breeds' and outcasts by the Jews, making the concept of a 'good Samaritan' almost contradictory. The story takes place on the dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho, known as 'the way of blood' due to frequent robberies. Jesus uses this parable to challenge our understanding of who our neighbor is and calls us to expand rather than limit our definition of love. The pastor emphasizes that we need a 'revolution of mercy' in our current times, urging the congregation to create margin in their lives to be available for God's interruptions and to actively participate in rescuing others who are broken and hurting.

Key Passages

- Luke 10:25-37
- 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- Romans 12:6-8

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, as we gather today to study Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to be receptive to Your Holy Spirit's leading and to see ourselves and others through Your eyes of love and compassion. Prepare our hearts to be challenged and changed by Your truth. We surrender our preconceptions and ask that You would speak to us clearly today. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What's one act of unexpected kindness that someone has shown you recently, or that you've witnessed someone else receive?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. How does understanding the historical context between Jews and Samaritans change your perspective on this parable?
2. Pastor Daniel mentioned that 'hurry is one of the greatest enemies of love.' How does the pace of your life affect your ability to show compassion to others?
3. What are some 'dangerous roads' that people in our community or world are walking today?
4. Why do you think the priest and Levite passed by the injured man? What might cause us to do the same today?
5. The expert in the law wanted to know who his neighbor wasn't, rather than who his neighbor was. How do we sometimes try to limit our responsibility to love others?
6. What does it mean to create 'margin' in our lives, and how can this help us be more available to serve others?
7. The pastor said, 'If your life of faith is not regularly putting you in a situation where you're being inconvenienced, we're doing it wrong.' How does this challenge your current approach to following Jesus?
8. Who has God placed in your 'power path' - your daily routes and regular interactions - that might need His love and care?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, intentionally create margin in your schedule and budget so you can be available when God presents opportunities to show mercy. Look for one specific person in your 'power path' - whether at work, in your neighborhood, or in your daily routines - and ask God how you can be a Good Samaritan to them. Take one concrete action to help someone who is hurting or in need.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- Jesus expands rather than limits our definition of who our neighbor is.
- We need a revolution of mercy in our current divisive times.
- Creating margin in our lives allows us to be available for God's interruptions.
- Hurry is one of the greatest enemies of love and compassion.
- We were all once broken and in need of rescue, which should motivate us to help others.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Good Samaritan when we were broken and helpless on the side of life's road. Help us to never forget that we were once in desperate need of Your mercy and rescue. As we go from this place, give us eyes to see those around us who are hurting and in need. Create in us tender hearts that are moved with compassion like Yours. Help us to slow down, create margin in our lives, and be willing to be inconvenienced for the sake of love. Make us a people who rally to the scene rather than pass by on the other side. Use us to bring Your healing and hope to our broken world. In Your precious name we pray, **Amen**.