



Story of My Life – Week 3 – Parable of the Good Samaritan
Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

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?"

²⁶ Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"

²⁷ 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 neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

²⁹ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Parable of the Good Samaritan

³⁰ 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.

³¹ "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. ³² A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

³³ "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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.'

³⁶ "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.

³⁷ The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy."

Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

Luke 10:25-37

Reflection Questions:

- What type of story has your life been this week? Has it been a comedy, a tragedy, a drama, a mystery?
- Eddie shared this: “Jesus practiced inclusive love, while they practiced selective love.” Take a moment to reflect silently; where are you tempted to love selectively? Is there a certain person or group of people that you have a hard time seeing as your neighbor?
- Read Jesus’ parable and teaching in Luke 10. If you’re with others, have someone read it out loud and listen. If you’re alone, you can hear someone else read it on the Bible app – youversion.com.
- What do you notice about listening to Jesus’ story and his teaching?
- Where do you find yourself in the story?
- Eddie shared a couple suggestions of where we might find ourselves. Read through them – which do you need to hold onto today?
 - Do you relate to the **the victim**, injured and desperate for help? Do you need to accept Jesus’ invitation to heal? Can you see Jesus in the Good Samaritan? He is the humble Savior who came down from his place of honor, to bind-up our wounds, to make us whole.
 - Do you see yourself in **the Samaritan**? At the close of the parable, Jesus said in verse 37, “Now go and do the same.” Don’t allow yourself to “dumb-down” the definition of a neighbor.
- Eddie challenged us: “love that can’t be bothered isn’t really love.” Take a moment to pause. Ask God to show you your neighbor, that he has placed in your path. Share with a trusted friend about one way you can move toward them this week.

Practices:

- **Reflect on these words from God’s Word & talk to Him honestly about your response:**

“Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well,” but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”
James 2:15

“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies!”
Matthew 5:43

“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave... he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.”
Philippians 2:6
- **Confession & Acceptance of Grace**

Is there something you have been convicted by as you’ve reflected on this story – something you need to confess out loud to someone else? Consider telling a trusted spiritual friend the specific thing that you need to bring into the light.

Then, have them pray for you to experience God’s grace. Eddie shared, “**eternal life is not a wage that is earned, it is a gift that is received.**” Let God’s grace and love gift you comfort and assurance.