

the good life

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Week 4 (Chapter 6)

In this week's sermon, Pastor Derwin unpacks the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. The animosity between Jews and Samaritans was great. These were two people groups whose hatred for one another had a deep history. Jews and Samaritans were bitter enemies. Samaritans were considered by Jews to be unclean because they were a mixture of Jewish and Gentile blood. Jesus was teaching a group of people when an expert in the law questioned what he must do to inherit eternal life. As part of His response, Jesus said, "love your neighbor as yourself." The expert in the law wanted to justify himself and asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29) Jesus deliberately chose to tell a parable with a Samaritan as the main character. Someone this expert in the law would have never considered to be his neighbor. The Samaritan came upon a Jewish man who had been badly beaten. The Samaritan had compassion on him, bandaged his wounds, took him to a shelter, cared for him, and then paid someone else to care for him until he returned. The mercy and care demonstrated by the Samaritan is the same kind of mercy and care we should show to our neighbors (who come from every ethnic group). "Loving your brothers and sisters in Christ across cultural, ethnic, and generational lines, and loving your enemies, are the ultimate signposts that God's Kingdom has come." [Chapter 6, page 129]

Create a meaningful conversation. Feel free to adjust the questions as needed.

- ◆ How did God show us His ultimate mercy? What impact has this act of mercy had on your life?
- ◆ To give mercy, we must first receive it. Pastor Derwin wrote, "At the heart of our lack of mercy is our inability to receive mercy. We are not merciful because we have not experienced divine mercy. If you do not possess it, you cannot give it away." Have you accepted God's mercy for your life? Is this an area in which you are struggling? If so, pray and ask God to open your heart so that you may fully accept the mercy He offers.
- ◆ Read **Matthew 5:7**. Jesus shares His mercy with us so that we may become merciful. How have you seen mercy at work in your life? Does this inspire you to extend mercy to others?
- ◆ Read aloud **Luke 10:25-37**.
- ◆ Who is your neighbor? How does the parable of the Good Samaritan inform who your neighbor is? Our neighbor may be someone with whom we may not get along or agree. How can you show them mercy?
- ◆ Mercy isn't afraid to cross ethnic, cultural, and religious barriers to touch human suffering. What opportunities exist around you to help hurting people?
- ◆ God sees people as loved, valuable, and redeemable. How can you transform the way you see people to align with the way God sees them?

Soul-tattoo: Be merciful.