

# Like a Good Neighbor

## Luke 10

(This message is online at: [nwbcspringfield.com](http://nwbcspringfield.com)) - Use this listening guide as you watch the video worship services online. This will also have questions you can use with your connect group.

A parable is an \_\_\_\_\_ story with a \_\_\_\_\_ meaning  
Christian \_\_\_\_\_ isn't just sympathy—Sympathy means you feel bad for somebody—But \_\_\_\_\_ means you're deeply moved by their situation—so much so that you make it personal.

### 1. RESTORATION is more than \_\_\_\_\_

That's what happens when faith is \_\_\_\_\_. When we hear with our \_\_\_\_\_, but not with our \_\_\_\_\_

He didn't just \_\_\_\_\_ --- he \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. NEIGHBORS aren't just \_\_\_\_\_ to Us

He was not looking for a \_\_\_\_\_ - as much as he was looking for a \_\_\_\_\_ ....

Your \_\_\_\_\_ are not just those who \_\_\_\_\_ like you

Racism is an assault on the \_\_\_\_\_. And it's also an assault on the \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 103:4 - "thou hast crowned me with \_\_\_\_\_ kindness and \_\_\_\_\_."

**CONNECT GROUP**

**ICEBREAKER** Share a time when someone went out of their way to bless you. Was it a surprise party, an extravagant gift, a financial gift, or time out of their schedule to just be with you? What did that feel like? How did you respond?

**LEADERS' NOTE:** - hopefully, people may be able to recall such a time. You may want to start out with something small, perhaps someone took time out of their schedules to pray with you or listen to you -- We want to help people see that even small acts of kindness can make a lasting impact on people!

**APPLY THE BIBLE** In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus explains the term "neighbors." Jesus teaches us that we cannot limit the extent of our love. Anytime we limit the word neighbor to a group smaller than everyone, we've missed the meaning of Jesus' words. And if we are honest, it's easy to limit our love when we let differences, fears and hurts reduce the category of neighbor. While we seek to have God's heart of love for everyone, love is more than an attitude. It must be translated into practical action. One of the issues we all struggle with is how to have a love for everyone while recognizing that we cannot meet everyone's needs. As always, Jesus is our teacher and our example and even goes so far as to promise to empower us to love this way! Have someone read Acts 1:8

**Q1.** Where do we get the power to love our neighbors? We need the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Q2.** Think of your own neighborhood where you live. Do you know the families who live near you? On your block? In your community? What obstacles in our modern lives make it difficult to even 'know' our literal neighbors?

Busyness can be a roadblock to getting to know our neighbors. As a culture we don't really need to know our neighbors. We have our own set of friends and our own set of activities that puts us out of reach of our neighbors. Feeling intimidated to talk with others can also be a roadblock. Human beings are creatures of comfort and stepping out of our comfort zone can be intimidating. But we will not grow unless we step out of our comfort zone.

**Q3.** What is one practical step we can take to begin to love others?

Brainstorm with your group what you can do to be more intentional to love others in your neighborhoods or communities. Are there single moms, dads, widows, seniors who could use some help? Maybe they need help with gardening, cleaning the garage or cleaning up the park in your neighborhood. Be creative! We want to be more intentional in the way we know and love our neighbors; so we look at Jesus who simply loved people as the opportunity arose during the normal traffic patterns of his life. Wherever he was, he loved the people who came into his path. When he was with the disciples, he showed love to them! When he was with the Pharisees, he loved them! Often, he did this very differently! To follow Jesus' example is to make the choice to love in the opportunities that arise in our everyday journey:

**Q4. Think of examples in Scripture where Jesus acted in love and study them together as a group.** [Here are some examples to get you started: look at Luke 8:22; Luke 7:11-15; Matthew 8:1-3.]

**Q5. Can you see a pattern in the way Jesus interacts with people?**

One of the things we see is that Jesus took action. He didn't just hope they would be ok, but he actually did something. He served others!

**Q6. What stops you from caring for others? Is it fear, sacrifice, time or something else?**

Here's a place for you to share honestly about something in your life. Remember to thank your group members for sharing honestly. This is sacred ground for your group.

**Q7. How can we show love to people right in front of us?**

Look for opportunities that you can serve and bless them. BEAR BURDENS -This may be a totally new concept for you and TO FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE IS TO LOVE THE PEOPLE GOD PUTS IN OUR PATH EVERYDAY. THERE ARE NO COINCIDENCES! Maybe it's a mom in the grocery check-out line who needs a word of encouragement, help with her groceries to the car or patience while their child is screaming. God often will put people in our path who need his love, his mercy and grace. Pray for eyes to see those who need to know Jesus' love today. Make the choice to love the one that God puts in your path today, trusting that the Holy Spirit will show up and show YOU exactly how—and who—he wants you to love today. Pray together as a group to have eyes to see as Jesus sees, to have a heart to love as Jesus loves, and take action as Jesus calls you.

**CHANCE TO SERVE** Have you and your group determined how you will serve during LOVE WEEK? Discuss what kinds of events would fit your Group. Yes, you can participate in more than one outreach if that works for your Group! Thank you for your hearts of compassion towards our "neighbors."

### **Southern Baptist Leaders Statement**

As a convention of churches committed to equality and dignity of all people, Southern Baptist grieve the death of George Floyd, who was killed May 25th of this year.

While all must grieve, we understand that in the hearts of our fellow citizens of color, incidents like these connect to a long history of unequal justice in our country, going back to the grievous Jim Crow and slavery eras. The images and information we have available to us in this case are horrific and remind us that there is much more work to be done to ensure that there is not even a hint of racial inequity in the distribution of justice in our country. We grieve to see examples of the misuse of force, and call for these issues to be addressed with speed and justice.

While we thank God for our law enforcement officers that bravely risk their lives for the sake of others and uphold justice with dignity and integrity, we also lament when some law enforcement officers misuse their authority and bring unnecessary harm on the people they are called to protect. We further grieve with our minority brothers and sisters in the wake of George Floyd's death, pray for his family

and friends and greatly desire to see the misuse of force and inequitable distributions of justice come to an end.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, the Bible speaks to matters of justice and human dignity. We are taught by Scripture that human beings are distinct among the rest of creation as those beings which bear the divine image. From the beginning of life to the end, all human beings, both male and female—of all ethnicities, colors and ages—are sacred beings that God values and loves.

Therefore, as a matter of Christian obedience and devotion, followers of Jesus Christ cannot remain silent when our brothers and sisters, friends and or people we seek to win for Christ are mistreated, abused or killed unnecessarily. And in the example of Jesus Christ, God's people are called to love others, care for their needs, grieve with them in brokenness and labor for the well-being of our neighbor.

## HOW TO JOIN A CONNECT GROUP

Go to [nwbcspringfield.com](http://nwbcspringfield.com)

Click the join a connect group box at the top of the home page and fill out the form. Be sure and let us know what time works best for you:

- Monday Morning—11:00AM
- Thursday Evening—7:00PM
- Sunday Evening—6:00PM

Pastor Paul will be leading for the next 2 or 3 weeks allowing us time to get leaders for each of the groups.

We will be using Facebook Messenger Rooms.