

Stories with Intent
The Parables of Jesus
Sermon Discussion Guide
The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

Opening Purpose

Jesus told parables to reveal truth - but only to those willing to truly hear. This discussion invites us to listen carefully to one of Jesus' most familiar stories and allow it to confront our assumptions about love, mercy, and neighborliness.

1. Warm-Up: Hearing vs. Hearing Clearly

1. Share about a time when you heard something but later realized you hadn't really understood it.
 - What changed your understanding?
 - What helped you hear it clearly the second time?
2. Why do you think familiarity can sometimes prevent us from really hearing Jesus' words?

2. Observing the Text (Luke 10:25-35)

3. What question does the expert in the law ask Jesus at the beginning of the passage (vv. 25-29)?
 - What do you notice about his motivation?
4. As Jesus tells the parable, what details stand out about:
 - The traveler
 - The priest
 - The Levite
 - The Samaritan
5. What actions does the Samaritan take that the others do not?
 - Notice both what he feels and what he does.

3. Understanding the Shock (Cultural Distance)

6. Why would Jesus' original audience not have been surprised - or offended - by the priest and Levite passing by?
7. Why would the Samaritan have been a shocking and even offensive choice as the hero of the story?
 - What did Samaritans represent to Jewish listeners?
8. Why do you think the expert in the law cannot bring himself to say the word "Samaritan" in verse 37?

4. Interpreting Jesus' Question

9. How does Jesus reframe the expert's question?

- Original question: "Who is my neighbor?"
- Jesus' question: "Which of these proved to be a neighbor?"

10. What does this shift reveal about how Jesus defines love and obedience?

5. Application: Hearing the Story Today

11. What kinds of boundaries do people still draw today when deciding who deserves love, compassion, or help?

12. If Jesus told this parable in our community today, who might be the:

- Priest?
- Levite?
- Samaritan?

13. Who would be the most personally uncomfortable version of the Samaritan for you - and why?

6. Living the Call

14. Jesus' final command is simple but costly: "Go and do likewise."

- What does mercy look like when it moves beyond feelings into action?

15. What is one practical way you can intentionally show mercy this week to someone you might normally overlook, avoid, or dismiss?

Closing Reflection

Read Luke 10:36-37 aloud together.

> "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor...?"

> "The one who had mercy on him."

> Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

The Point:

There are no limits or boundaries in God's call to love our neighbor.

Close in prayer, asking God not only to help us hear Jesus' words - but to obey them.