



Smith Rock
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

**For the week of
19th July 2020**

Neighbourhood Plan



How do you decide what community you are going to live in? It may be the place you were born and raised in and have never moved away from. It may be based on your urban or rural preference, it could be some other criteria.

In your community you will probably find mostly other people, like yourself, and those are who we consider our neighbours.

In this week's text Jesus wants us to relook at our definition of neighbour, and not see it merely as a matter of physical proximity.



And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?"

27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

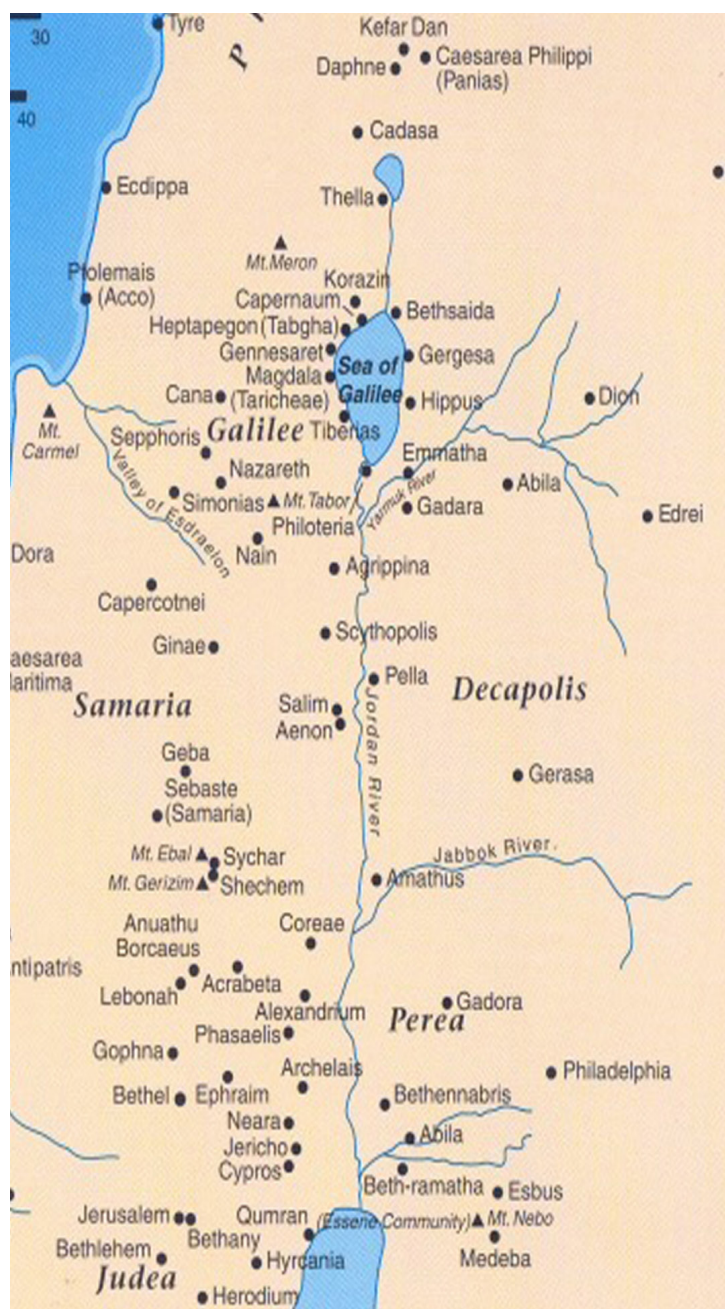
28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Sa

maritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:25–42 (ESV)



Commentary

Previously Jesus had been debriefing with the 72 disciples He had sent out, telling them that their joy is because their names are written in the kingdom of Heaven.

Out of nowhere this lawyer appears to ask Jesus a question, although Luke tells us the question is asked to “test” Jesus, and it is a question which Jesus was asked at other times and indeed Jesus answered. What does the lawyer need to do to inherit eternal life? In other words to get his name written in heaven. Jesus turns the question back on him; he is the lawyer and the expert, the answer can be found in the Old Testament. Jesus affirms the law and the prophets, and God’s means of salvation has not changed; it’s faith. The lawyer answers Jesus by quoting the Shema; Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. *5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.* Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (ESV). And from Leviticus; *You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.* Leviticus 19:17–18 (ESV)

Jesus affirms the lawyer has answered correctly, “do this and you will live.” But the lawyer isn’t satisfied, perhaps he is looking for absolute confirmation that he has done this. Perhaps he was expecting Jesus to list the locations and qualities which would make someone his neighbour and worth his love.

Instead Jesus tells a story, where a man is brutally attacked and robbed on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho, which was notorious for robbers. The man is not identified and his identity isn’t

germane to the story. "By chance," two men come down the road and they are both persons of the religious establishment. The first is a priest heading away from Jerusalem, the epicentre of where God is loved the most! Surely this Priest will do something for the man, but he doesn't, he sees him and passes by on the other side of the road. A Levite comes next, and he too does the same thing. Jesus does not give us their reasoning for doing this, the point is that these two men who are thought of as loving God do not respond to the man. The next person who comes across the victim is a Samaritan (think of the person you would least expect to help), and he stops because he has "compassion." He ministers first aid out of his own resources, takes the victim to an inn and nurses him for a night, and although he has to leave next morning he pays for the man's future care promising the innkeeper that if it goes past what he has given he will make it good. Then Jesus asks the question, "which one of the three proved to be the neighbour?" Being a neighbour is not about physical location it is about action, and notably love, how we show love to someone. The lawyer can't bring himself to say "Samaritan," all he can do say, "the one who showed mercy." Jesus' response is for him to go and do the same.

The scene shifts to a woman called Martha's home. From John's Gospel we know they lived in Bethany outside of Jerusalem, and she has a sister Mary and brother Lazarus. Here we see Luke has arranged the story to fit his emphasis rather than telling a chronological narrative.

Martha is busy preparing for her guests when she notices that her sister is not helping. In fact Mary is sitting at the feet of Jesus, in

the mode of a disciple. Women were not allowed to be disciples at this time and so when Martha appeals to Jesus to have Mary be sent back to help her she no doubt felt Jesus would be on her side, and dismiss Mary back to her “rightful” place. But instead Jesus gently reprimands Martha for her distraction in serving and being anxious and troubled about many things. Mary, Jesus tells her has chosen “the good portion,” she is showing her love for Jesus by listening to Him. Just as the Samaritan is the unlikely person who shows He is a neighbour by loving a victim enough to stop and help, so Mary is the unlikely disciple who shows her love for God by removing herself from distractions and listening to Jesus.

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week’s study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

What is the best thing a complete stranger has ever done for you?

How did that make you feel?

Why do you think they did it for you?

Read the Ten Commandments and discuss how they can be boiled down to “love God and love neighbour.”

7 *"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.*

8 *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

12 *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

13 *"You shall not murder.*

14 *"You shall not commit adultery.*

15 *"You shall not steal.*

16 *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

17 *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."*

Exodus 20:7–17 (ESV)

What does it mean for us to love God with all our hearts, with all our soul, with all our strength and all our minds?

Who do you define as your neighbour?

Is there anyone you don't think of as your neighbour?

What are the reasons we might not choose to show "neighbourliness to someone?"

What would Jesus say about that?

Discuss the neighbourhoods you live and come up with some ways you could show love to your neighbours.

Read the following passage and answer how we can say we love God if we don't love our neighbours.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43–48 (ESV)

What lesson will you take from this text, and how will you put it into practice this week?

Read the following passages and reflect on them.

9 For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:9–10 (ESV)

2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Romans 15:2 (ESV)

24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

1 Corinthians 10:24 (ESV)

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:25 (ESV)

11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor

*and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.*

*12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more.”*

Hebrews 8:11–12 (ESV)

NAME OF THE BOOK

KIDS CORNER



