

The Good Samaritan



Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study looks at the Parable of the Good Samaritan and what the command of Jesus to 'Love your neighbour as yourself' entails.



'Go and do likewise'

Read Luke 10:25-37. Jesus has been asked the question 'Who is my neighbour?' in response to his command to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. He responds by telling a parable - a story to illustrate a lesson. In Jesus' day, Jews and Samaritans despised one another, and yet Jesus commends the Samaritan for showing love to the man who had been robbed and beaten. The passage ends with Jesus telling his followers to 'Go and do likewise'.



Key points

- Jesus confirms that the Samaritan in the story was more of a neighbour to the man in need than the Levite or the priest, even though he was from a different ethnic and religious group.
- Jesus shows that love knows no national, ethnic or religious boundaries.



Questions for discussion

- What is happening in the story?
- How were relations between Jews and Samaritans?
- What motivated the Samaritan to help the Jew?
- What values do we learn from the Samaritan on inclusion?
- Do we have tension or conflict in the church or community? What are the causes?
- What mechanisms are there in the church which promote unity and love among community members?
- What more can the church do to improve relations among groups in the community or church?