



DiscoverChurch
LIFE GROUPS

February 2018 Curriculum

Suggested Structure of the Meeting:

Gathering and Fellowship

Gather and enjoy a meal or snack as you get ready for the Bible Study.

Opening

Ice Breaker question

Bible Study

Praise and Worship

Scripture Reading: There is always a specific Bible text for each study.

Notes: Each study includes background material to help you better understand the text.

Open-ended subjective questions: Questions for which there is no wrong answer. Instead, these questions will hopefully help each participant to think about their life in light of God's love and our calling.

Prayer

Specific prayers related to the study

Additional material

Additional material: songs for worship and videos that can help expand your study.

Believe, Belong, Bless

In this quarter we continue to highlight questions that focus on one of three areas of a balanced Christian life – They're pointed out by one of the three words.

Parables: Stories with a Punch

Who is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37

Ice Breaker: What was your favorite story as a child and why?

Read: Luke 10:25-37

One of the main ways that Jesus taught his disciples and the crowds was with parables. A parable is a story that uses metaphor and symbol to make an eternal point. At the time of Jesus, many of the details would have been obvious to the hearers. They would have understood the details of the story. While the crowd understood the details of the story, they would sometime struggle with making the connection between the story and the eternal point as shown in, Mark 4:10-12. That, however was not always the case, for example in Luke 10. The lawyer who asked Jesus the question, “Who is my neighbor?” quickly understood the point of the parable.

Notes:

- The parable of the Good Samaritan is only found in the Gospel of Luke.
- The question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” is asked more than once in the Gospels.
- It is that question (What must I do to inherit eternal life?) that eventually leads to this story.
- The two commandments the lawyer quotes are the Shema from Deuteronomy 6 and a minor commandment from Leviticus 18.
- Samaritans were hated partly because they did not acknowledge the Jerusalem temple as the place to worship God, but rather used the temple on Mount Gerizim.
- They were also hated for simple racial reason.
- The lawyer could not even say, “the Samaritan” because of prejudice.
- Road from Jericho to Jerusalem was a 17 mile road that climbed over 3,300 feet in elevation. It was a favorite place for bandits and robbers. Later in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus takes this same route to go to Jerusalem, Luke 19.

Questions:

- 1) How would you answer the question “Who is my neighbor?”
- 2) What is the connection between loving God and loving our neighbor? Believe
- 3) For Jews, the Samaritan people were unlovable both for their belief but also for racial reasons. Who are the groups of people that you struggle to love?
- 4) What are some ways we can Bless our neighbors as individuals and as a Life Group?
- 5) How can we pray for those individuals that we talked about in this study?

Prayer:

Pray for Hospitality House, an organization in North Minneapolis that reaches out to inner-city youth with the love of Christ. Pray for Avenues for Homeless Youth that provides housing for homeless teens. Pray for each of your neighborhoods and pray for your next door neighbors. Ask God how you can bless them and witness to them the love of Christ. Pray for those people and groups of people that you personally struggle to love. Pray for personal prayer requests.

Additional Resources

This YouTube is a creative reading of the Good Samaritan Parable:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vog8cqUqyCI>

Here is a song for Worship
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4IXQbGpMFg>

This is study based on the Good Samaritan:
<https://www.dowellwebtools.com/tools/lp/Bo/psyched/7/Good-Samaritan>