



SERMON GROUP LINK

BRADY HERBERT | "PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN"

Harris Creek Baptist Church

June 8, 2014

LIFE GROUP LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

In preparation for group discussion, take a few minutes to read through the instructions to the right.

PASSAGES TO STUDY

SERMON TEXT:

Luke 10:25-37

OTHER SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Luke 9:51-53, 10:13-15

BEFORE LIFE GROUP

1. Spend time in prayer and studying the passage.
2. Listen to the sermon and take notes. Write down questions you had while listening to the sermon.
3. Read through all of the material.
4. Write down two or three ways to apply the passage to your daily life.

DURING LIFE GROUP

1. Summarize the sermon in your own words. Ask other group members to do the same.
2. Ask someone to read the text for the group.
3. Lead your group through the discussion questions, asking the ones that are relevant to your group. Supplement some of the discussion with your own thoughts and follow-up questions.
4. Share how you might be able to apply the sermon to your everyday life.
5. Close with a time of prayer, asking God to increase the depth of our relationship with Him and our obedience to what we learned.

SERMON RECAP

One of the most famous parables Jesus ever told is commonly known as "The Parable of the Good Samaritan." It is a parable so widely shared that our country has "Samaritan laws" some 2,000 years after Jesus originally told this story. While most people in our culture may be familiar with the story, it's the context surrounding this famous parable that actually helps us understand what exactly Jesus is trying to say. In the period right before Jesus tells this story, he and his disciples have numerous encounters with Samaritans because they are traveling through the region. Relations between Jews and Samaritans were tense and often even hostile for a lot of reasons, some of which included racial prejudices and religious differences. In Luke 10, Jesus sends out 72 of his disciples into Samaria and they see a positive response to the Gospel from the Samaritans. This undoubtedly caused a stir and had many questioning the legitimacy of Jesus. One of the skeptics was a religious expert who approached Jesus to test his theology. In the midst of what he thought would be an examination of Jesus, the religious expert finds himself on trial and his prejudices exposed by Jesus. In this shocking story of what it means to be a "neighbor," Jesus says that we are called to care for all that we come in contact with, even those who we would consider to be our enemies.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think this parable is one of the most famous parables Jesus told? How familiar were you with "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" before hearing the message on Sunday?
2. Before hearing the message, how much did you know about the context leading up to this famous parable (i.e. ministry in Samaria, Jewish-Samaritan relations)? Why is the context vital to understanding what Jesus is saying in this familiar story?
3. Explain the relationship between Jews and Samaritans as best as you understand it. Why would some Jews have been concerned with Jesus showing any care for the Samaritan people? What are some good examples of modern day "Samaritans" in our culture? What is the danger in simply labeling the "other" and not extending genuine care?
4. The religious expert asks Jesus an important question about "gaining eternal life." How is Jesus' affirmation of this man's response a little different than the formula some present in our culture today in regards to salvation?
5. Many people assume that the "neighbor" in this parable is the man in need. How does Jesus surprise his listeners, even today, by making the neighbor the one who extended help? Have you typically assumed the neighbor in this parable was the man in need or the Samaritan? What deeper message is Jesus communicating by making the neighbor the Samaritan?
6. What are some barriers that are keeping you from "being a neighbor" to those in need in the community around you?
7. The focus in Luke 10:25-37 is on action. What actions does Jesus say are an important part of faith in God in this passage?
8. What do you hear God calling you to do in light of the story of the Good Samaritan? What is something you will take away from this weekend's message?