

Grow Group Resources

- Sermon Summary: Go & Do

- The sermon is part of a series exploring what it means to be a neighbour, rooted in Grace Baptist Church's desire to be disciple-makers, good neighbours, and a hub of help and hope for the surrounding community. The church's vision is to steward its gifts and serve those around it, both locally and around the world. Being a neighbour is not simply about who happens to live near us; it is about how we respond to the people God places in our path. Jesus redefines a neighbour as someone who shows mercy.
- The sermon centers on Luke 10:25–37 and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. A lawyer asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus directs him to the law, and the man correctly identifies the two great commands: love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. Wanting to justify himself, the lawyer then asks, “Who is my neighbour?” Rather than allowing him to narrow the definition of neighbour, Jesus tells a story that completely reframes the question.
- A man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho is attacked by robbers, beaten, stripped, and left half dead. A priest sees him but passes by. A Levite also sees him and passes by on the other side. The expected religious examples fail to show mercy. Then a Samaritan comes along. Because of the deep hostility between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus' original audience would have been shocked that the Samaritan became the hero of the story. Yet when he sees the wounded man, he has compassion. He crosses the road, treats his wounds, puts him on his own animal, takes him to an inn, cares for him, and pays the innkeeper to continue caring for him.
- Jesus then reverses the lawyer's question. Instead of asking, “Who is my neighbour?” Jesus asks, “Which of these three proved to be a neighbour?” The answer is the one who showed mercy. Jesus concludes with the command: “You go and do likewise.” The sermon emphasizes that the Good Samaritan is not merely a good suggestion or an inspiring example. “Go” and “do” are commands. Jesus commissions his followers to become people who actively move toward others in mercy.
- 1. **GO** — Neighbouring Requires Movement
 - The first major idea is that neighbouring requires movement. It is easy to remain comfortable and serve people from a distance, but Jesus calls his followers to move toward people who are hurting. The priest and Levite may have had legitimate fears, schedules, religious concerns, or other reasons for avoiding the wounded man. Whatever their reasons, they allowed those concerns to keep them on the other side of the road.

- The Samaritan, however, crosses the road. He moves toward the person in need. Being a neighbour means actively seeing people, moving toward them, and entering into their circumstances rather than waiting for them to come to us. Importantly, the Samaritan does not try to care for everyone in the city. He encounters one person and gives himself to that person's need. The sermon calls this our “plus one”—the one person God may be calling us to notice, care for, and walk alongside.
- But movement must be motivated by something deeper than obligation. The difference between the religious leaders and the Samaritan is compassion. All three saw the wounded man, but only the Samaritan was moved by what he saw. Compassion begins in the heart and moves us toward action.
- The sermon acknowledges that we do not always naturally feel compassion for people in need. The answer is first to receive the compassionate love of Christ ourselves. As we experience Jesus' transforming love and the work of the Holy Spirit, our hearts can become softer toward others. We can also ask God for a new and compassionate heart. At times, however, we may need to act before we feel compassion; giving our time and resources can allow our hearts to follow. Ultimately, the compassion we receive from God is meant to flow through us into the world.
- **2. DO** — Neighbouring Has a Cost
 - The second major idea is that neighbouring has a cost. The Samaritan's response required time, money, comfort, safety, cleanliness, his own resources, and an interruption to his plans. Being a neighbour will sometimes inconvenience us, and we should not be surprised by that. Loving people sacrificially requires us to give something of ourselves.
 - Yet the cost is worth it because Jesus paid the ultimate cost to be our neighbour. He left heaven, came to earth, and died for us. Because our identity and security are found in Christ, we can now live sacrificially toward others. Our service flows out of what Christ has already done for us.
 - We also are not called to do this work alone. The Samaritan recognizes his own limitations and brings the innkeeper into the process of caring for the wounded man. Likewise, Christians need one another as we serve our neighbourhoods. We are better together, and we should invite others to strengthen and encourage us in serving people around us.
 - Finally, Jesus is the primary doer. We are called to serve and love, but Jesus invites us to participate in work he is already doing. Like a child helping his father carry something

heavy, we genuinely participate even though the Father is ultimately doing the work. Jesus supplies the strength and invites ordinary people to join his mission in the world.

- **Another View - JESUS Is Our Neighbour**

- The sermon ends by turning the story around once again. We can identify with the priest and Levite who failed to respond, or with the Samaritan who showed mercy. But Jesus also invites us to see ourselves as the wounded man—helpless, broken, and unable to save ourselves.
- Spiritually, we are the ones left helpless in our sin. Jesus is the one who crosses the road toward us. He comes to us in compassion, shows us mercy, pays the price for our sin, gives us access to the Father, and leads us into eternal life. Before we can truly become neighbours who show mercy, we must recognize that Jesus has first been our neighbour.
- The final challenge is therefore simple: Who is your “plus one”? Perhaps there is already someone God has placed in your life whom you are called to continue caring for. Perhaps there is a relationship you need to begin. Or perhaps you need to ask God to open your eyes and reveal the person when the opportunity comes. The call is not simply to think about neighbouring but to “go and do.”

- **Discussion Questions**

1. Start your time with prayer - inviting the Holy Spirit to help you understand the scriptures and see Jesus more clearly.
 2. Read Luke 10:25 to 37 out loud. What stands out to you in the text? What questions arise?
 3. Who is my neighbour?
- In Luke 10, the lawyer asks, “Who is my neighbour?” but Jesus reframes the question as, “Who proved to be a neighbour?”
What difference does it make when we think of neighbouring not primarily as identifying who deserves our attention, but as becoming a person who shows mercy?

4. Who is on the other side of the road?

- The priest and Levite both saw the wounded man but chose to pass by. What are some things that can cause us to stay on “our side of the road” rather than move toward people who are hurting—comfort, busyness, fear, inconvenience, assumptions, or something else? Which of these tends to be most challenging for you?

5. What moves us to compassion?

- The Samaritan was different because when he saw the man, “he had compassion.” The sermon emphasized that our ability to show compassion flows from first receiving Christ's compassionate love for us. How has experiencing Jesus' mercy toward you affected the way you respond to people who are hurting or in need? What could you ask God to change in your heart?

6. What might neighbouring cost us?

- The Samaritan gave his time, money, comfort, resources, and plans to care for someone in need. What kinds of costs make it difficult for us to “go and do” today? Where might God be asking you to become more willing to be interrupted or inconvenienced for someone else?

7. Who is your “plus one”?

- The Samaritan didn't solve every problem in his community—he noticed one person and stepped into that person's story. The sermon challenged us to identify our own “plus one.” Who is one person God may be putting in your path that you could intentionally move toward this week? What is one practical step you could take to build that relationship, show care, or meet a need?

8. Close your time in prayer for each other. This is a great moment to discover prayer needs within your group.