

March 1, 2020

Welcome To The Neighborhood

What do you remember from last Sunday's message?

What were some things that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

When you were a kid, how did you determine who your neighbor was?

As you got older, how did the criteria change for who you decided was your neighbor?

Has anyone ever excluded you from their "neighbor" list? Share with the group your experience with that.

Fill in the blank: "*Don't be a _____ person. Be an _____ person.*"
What did Jordan mean by that?

READ: Luke 10:25-31

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" The man answered, " 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.' "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. The man replied, "The one

who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.” Luke 10:25–37 (NLT)

Why did Jesus make the victim in the story a Jewish man and the hero a Samaritan? What might be a modern day equivalent?

Why would a priest or a temple assistant try to avoid the helpless man? Why did Jesus use those two specific people to illustrate his story?

What part of the story does Jesus go into the greatest detail? [*A: When he describes the many ways the Samaritan helped the Jewish man.*] Why do you think Jesus went into such detail?

Will responding to Jesus’ teaching in this parable cost you something? What will it cost you?

What were some things Jordan cautioned us about when it comes to loving our neighbor?

- [*Answers:*
 - *Feeling the emotions of compassion and mercy but not doing anything.*
 - *Doing things as if to check them off a check-list while our hearts remain unchanged]*

What is God’s ultimate goal for your life?