

## Good Samaritans

The story of the Good Samaritan in the Bible is one of the most famous stories in history. You can read it in Luke 10:25-37. A man on his way to Jericho was attacked by robbers and left for dead. Over the next few hours three people passed the man but only one helped him. The first person, a priest, who should have known God's love, simply walks by. The second, a Levite, also a man who knows God's law, walks by and ignores him. Finally, a Samaritan, an outsider, walks by and helps the man left for dead.

Jesus told the story when a lawyer asked him what he must do to inherit eternal life, in other words how he could please God. Jesus asks the lawyer's opinion and he replies, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbour as yourself." Jesus says he is correct but challenges him further. Jesus tells story of the Good Samaritan and asks, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? The lawyer replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Then Jesus simply told him to go and do the same.

That easy to understand isn't it? Well not quite! The lawyer would have held the Priest and Levite in high regard. He would have thought the Samaritan was the least likely to have helped. Samaritans were seen as a low class of people who did not follow God's law fully. Jesus is turning the lawyers's expectations upside down by saying that the least likely person is the one whose actions pleased God.

In our community, we can overlook and ignore those people that we do not like or who we disagree with, who are weak, sick or lowly. That is not God's way. He wants us to love and include these people as equals. God's community needs those that know Jesus together with those who are getting to know him, and even those who do not know him yet. People who are 'outsiders' are especially welcome. The aim of course is to please God and we need the 'Samaritans' all around us to do this together.

Be open to how God brings you together with people in your life. Use those openings to teach about Jesus and work together with anyone who God places in front of us.

### Put it into Action!

When Jesus tells the lawyer to go and do the same he really means it. Who around us do we need to show love to and help practically?

Secondly, who do we see as the Samaritan? Who are the outsiders, those we would not even consider to be part of God's community? Spend some with them, get to know them and maybe even do something in your community together? Be good 'Samaritans' together.

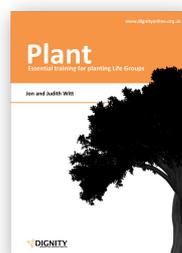
### Pray that:

- 1) God will fill you with his compassion.
- 2) God will use the least likely people to bring his hope to your community.



When Brenda said, "I know that I am the walking dead" she was referring to her positive HIV status. Since then she has come to know Jesus through a Life Group & discovered new joy. She has now started a group to support others who are suffering with HIV Aids. She is helping them to know Jesus and discover joy!

**- Brenda, Katima Mulilio, Namibia**



This lesson is inspired by "Everyone has a Place" a lesson in Plant, a book that helps people to plant and run Life Groups in their community.

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