



# Living Love: Lessons from the Good Samaritan



Explore the meaning of neighborly love and compassion through the Good Samaritan story and related Gospel teachings.

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## Introduction

**The Gospels** are rich with teachings that illuminate how we are called to live in relationship with God and others. Among these, the *parables* of Jesus stand out as accessible yet profound stories that reveal deep spiritual truths. One such parable is the **Good Samaritan**, found in *Luke 10:25–37*. This story challenges cultural boundaries and redefines who our neighbor truly is, urging us to show love in action.

In this parable, Jesus responds to a question about eternal life and who qualifies as a neighbor by telling of a man beaten and left for dead. Unexpectedly, rather than those considered religious or righteous, it's a Samaritan—someone viewed as an outsider and enemy—who embodies mercy and compassion.

This study plan invites you to journey through seven days of reflection and application based on this parable and related Gospel passages. As you progress, you'll explore themes of compassion, mercy, justice, and the transformative power of love that breaks down barriers.

*Let's dive deep* into what it looks like to live out God's call to love our neighbors—not just the ones we are comfortable with, but also those society might overlook. By doing so, we align ourselves closer to Christ's example and continue His work on earth by showing tangible care and kindness.





## Day 1: Understanding Neighborly Love



Day 1: ☐ Understanding Neighborly Love

## Your Verse

*Luke 10:25-37 - “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 22:37-39 - “Love the Lord your God...Love your neighbor as yourself.”*
- *John 13:34 - “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”*



Day 1:  Understanding Neighborly Love

## Devotional: Redefining Neighbor as Love in Action

The question about 'Who is my neighbor?' lies at the heart of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. In first-century Judea, Jews and Samaritans were divided by deep cultural and religious animosity. When Jesus tells this story, He pushes His listeners to reconsider their assumptions about whom they are called to love.

Love is not just about warm feelings or agreeable relations; it is an active commitment—even to those we might find difficult or different. Jesus redefines 'neighbor' not by bloodline, nationality, or convenience but by compassion in action.

Consider the wounded man on the road: he needed help regardless of who offered it. The Samaritan crossed established boundaries to provide aid, showing us that love accomplishes what law or obligation alone cannot. As followers of Christ, we are invited to this deeper love—one that reaches beyond prejudice and circumstance.

**Today, reflect** on how you define your neighbor. Are there barriers you are reluctant to cross? Jesus calls us to step beyond comfort zones and practice love that restores and heals.



## Reflect and Apply

1. What does the parable of the Good Samaritan reveal about the nature of true compassion?

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2. In what ways might you unconsciously limit who your 'neighbors' are?

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3. How can love transform cultural or personal barriers you face?

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Day 1: ☐ Understanding Neighborly Love

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about someone you find difficult to love and why.

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2. Describe a time you acted with compassion toward a stranger.

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3. List practical ways you can show neighborly love this week.

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Day 1:  Understanding Neighborly Love

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, open my eyes to see others as You see them.** Help me break down walls of prejudice and fear so I can love those around me without hesitation. Teach me to be a neighbor who shows mercy in action, reflecting Your heart for all people. May Your love compel me to care beyond my comfort and reach those in need. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*    





## Day 2: 🏔️ Walking the Road with Compassion



## Day 2: 🏔️ Walking the Road with Compassion

## Your Verse

*Luke 10:30 – “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 12:15 – “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”*
- *Galatians 6:2 – “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*



Day 2:  Walking the Road with Compassion

## Devotional: Empathy That Engages and Acts

**The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was notoriously dangerous**, a steep descent exposed to bandits. The man's journey represents life's unexpected hardships and vulnerabilities. He didn't anticipate the attack, much like we often don't anticipate suffering or injustice in our own lives or in the lives of others.

Compassion calls us to 'walk the road' alongside those hurting. It is more than feeling pity; it involves stepping into their space, understanding their pain, and offering tangible help. The Good Samaritan did not merely notice the man; he responded by binding wounds and providing care.

Paul's instructions in Romans and Galatians remind us that empathy is an essential practice of faith. We are called to share in joys and sorrows, to lean into the lives of others, bearing burdens so love is made visible through us.

**Today, open your heart** to recognize the 'roads' people are walking near you. Where can your presence and kindness make a difference?



Day 2: 🏔️ Walking the Road with Compassion

## Reflect and Apply

1. How do you usually respond when you see others suffering?

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2. What might 'walking the road' with someone in need look like in your daily life?

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3. How can empathy lead to practical acts of kindness?

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Day 2:  Walking the Road with Compassion

# Journaling Prompts

1. Recall a moment when someone showed you real compassion.

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2. Identify a need in your community that you feel called to help meet.

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3. Write about barriers that might keep you from engaging with those who suffer.

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Day 2: 🏔️ Walking the Road with Compassion

## Prayer for Today

**God of mercy, teach me to walk with those in need.** Help me to not turn away when I see pain but to be present, compassionate, and ready to act. Let empathy soften my heart so I may carry others' burdens as Christ carries mine. Empower me to be Your hands on the tough roads others walk. *Amen.*





## Day 3: 🏠 Beyond Religion: True Mercy



## Your Verse

*Luke 10:31-32 - “A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Isaiah 58:6 - “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen...to loose the chains of injustice?”*
- *Micah 6:8 - “What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy.”*



## Devotional: Faith Expressed Through Mercy, Not Ritual

**The priest and Levite's actions reveal a contrast to the Samaritan's mercy.** Though religious leaders, their avoidance reflects a failure to live the heart of God's law. Their respect for ritual and fear possibly kept them from showing mercy.

This challenges us as believers to examine whether our religious practices lead to real love and compassion or become empty ritual. True religion is not just about observance but about the **visible expression of God's mercy**.

Prophets like Isaiah and Micah emphasize that God desires justice and mercy over sacrifice alone. Our faith must be alive, reaching out to those in need rather than turning away out of fear, pride, or convenience.

**Reflect on your spiritual life:** are your actions marked by mercy? Does your faith inspire you to meet needs or inadvertently cause you to turn a blind eye?



## Reflect and Apply

1. What might cause you to avoid helping others despite your faith?

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2. How can religious practices be aligned with active mercy?

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3. What does living 'justice and mercy' mean in your everyday choices?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. Write honestly about times your faith challenged you to act compassionately.

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2. List ways your faith community shows or could show real mercy.

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3. Reflect on how prayers and worship might inspire hands-on love.

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Day 3: 🏠 Beyond Religion: True Mercy

## Prayer for Today

**Jesus, help me live faith that moves beyond words into loving action.** Break any barriers of fear or judgment that keep me from showing mercy. Let my religious devotion be full of genuine compassion that honors You. May I be a living expression of Your justice and kindness in all I do. *In Your name I pray, Amen.* 🏠 ❤️ 🙏 🕯️





## Day 4: Compassion Crossing Boundaries



Day 4:  Compassion Crossing Boundaries

## Your Verse

*Luke 10:33 - “But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *John 4:9 - “Jews do not associate with Samaritans.”*
- *Galatians 3:28 - “There is neither Jew nor Gentile...for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*



Day 4:  Compassion Crossing Boundaries

## Devotional: Love that Breaks Down Walls

**The Samaritan's compassion defied profound social and ethnic divisions.** His actions crossed deeply ingrained barriers, choosing mercy over prejudice. This was revolutionary, not only in Jesus' time but for us today.

Jesus uses this example to teach that the kingdom of God breaks down walls of hostility and discrimination. In Christ, all people are valued neighbors, and love must surpass cultural, racial, or religious boundaries.

The New Testament calls us to unity and inclusivity, reminding us that Christ's love makes us one family. Embracing this truth requires intentional compassion that seeks the good of all, even those we may initially resist.

**How can you cultivate a heart like the Samaritan's,** ready to love beyond comfort zones and divisions?



Day 4:  Compassion Crossing Boundaries

## Reflect and Apply

1. What barriers do you face in showing love to others?

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2. How can the Gospel help you overcome divisions in your community?

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3. Where has God called you to extend compassion beyond your circle?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. Identify groups or individuals you struggle to relate to and explore why.

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2. Write about how Jesus' cross unites different people.

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3. Consider practical steps to bridge divides through love.

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Day 4:  Compassion Crossing Boundaries

## Prayer for Today

**God of unity, soften my heart to love across all divides.** Teach me to see others as You do, worthy of compassion regardless of background. Help me be a bridge, reflecting Your inclusive love in a world often divided. May Your Spirit empower me to be a neighbor who loves boldly and without prejudice. *Amen.*





## Day 5: ✕ Healing through Hands of Mercy



Day 5: ☒ Healing through Hands of Mercy

## Your Verse

*Luke 10:34 – “He went to him and bandaged his wounds...put the man on his own donkey.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *James 2:15-16 – “If a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*
- *1 John 3:18 – “Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”*



Day 5: ☒ Healing through Hands of Mercy

## Devotional: Mercy That Restores and Renews

**The Samaritan's response was practical and personal.** He didn't just feel sorry but took concrete steps—binding wounds, providing transport, and ensuring ongoing care. This is the power of mercy in action—it heals, restores, and gives dignity.

Faith in Christ calls us beyond abstract belief to active love. James reminds us that faith must manifest itself through deeds that meet real needs. Words alone cannot heal wounds or feed the hungry; action is required.

How often do we see suffering and feel helpless or uncertain? The Good Samaritan models courageous, tangible kindness. The smallest act—providing first aid, listening, or simply being present—can profoundly restore someone's life.

**Today, ask yourself how you can bring healing** through compassionate action to those in your path.



## Reflect and Apply

1. What practical steps can you take to help those in need around you?

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2. How does active love deepen your faith?

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3. What fears or excuses keep you from offering hands-on help?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. List simple acts of kindness you can perform this week.

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2. Describe a time you experienced healing through someone's help.

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3. Reflect on how faith inspires you to act in love.

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Day 5: ☒ Healing through Hands of Mercy

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, empower me to be Your hands and feet to those in need. Give me courage to take action, to step in where help is needed, and to offer healing through compassion. Let my faith not be idle but alive and active, demonstrating Your love. May I bring restoration and hope where there is brokenness. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*** ☒☒☒☒





## Day 6: Stewardship of Compassion



Day 6:  Stewardship of Compassion

## Your Verse

*Luke 10:35 - "Take care of him...I will reimburse you for any extra expense."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *2 Corinthians 9:7 - "God loves a cheerful giver."*
- *Proverbs 3:27 - "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due."*



## Devotional: Generous Hearts Reflect God's Love

**The Samaritan demonstrated generous stewardship of resources.** Caring for the injured man involved an expense and ongoing responsibility. Yet his willingness to invest time and money illustrates that love requires commitment and sacrifice.

Stewardship in the Christian life means managing not just money but also time, talents, and energy for God's purposes. Compassion often involves cost, yet God encourages us to give cheerfully, trusting Him to provide.

Practicing generosity reflects God's heart and furthers His kingdom on earth. It also transforms us by shifting our focus from ourselves to others.

**Consider how you steward what God has given you,** including your resources for acts of mercy and kindness.



Day 6:  Stewardship of Compassion

## Reflect and Apply

1. How do you respond to opportunities that require financial or personal sacrifice?

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2. What is your attitude toward giving and stewardship in the context of compassion?

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3. How can generosity transform your relationship with God and others?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. Reflect on a time you gave sacrificially and how it impacted you.

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2. List resources God has entrusted to you for compassionate use.

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3. Write about ways you can faithfully steward your time and money.

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Day 6:  Stewardship of Compassion

## Prayer for Today

**Gracious God, teach me joyful generosity.** Help me manage all You have entrusted to me wisely and bravely, willing to invest in the lives of others. Renew my heart so that giving flows naturally as a reflection of Your love.

May I trust in Your provision as I serve neighbors in need. *Amen.*    





## Day 7: 🙏 Living as Good Neighbors



Day 7: 🙏 Living as Good Neighbors

## Your Verse

*Luke 10:37 - "Go and do likewise."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before others."*
- *Colossians 3:12 - "Therefore, as God's chosen people, clothe yourselves with compassion."*



## Day 7: 🙏 Living as Good Neighbors

## Devotional: Commit to Compassionate Living Daily

Jesus' final instruction to 'go and do likewise' is a call to ongoing action. It invites us to embody mercy, kindness, and compassion consistently as lifestyle choices, not one-time acts.

Being a Good Samaritan means living intentionally as a neighbor wherever God places us, showing His love through small and large gestures alike. Our lives become testimonies to God's transforming power when we reflect His compassion.

Paul's encouragement to clothe ourselves with compassion reminds us that love is not optional but essential Christian character. It transforms communities and points others toward Christ by shining His light.

**Commit today** to living as a neighbor who acts with mercy, breaking down barriers and offering healing love every day.



## Reflect and Apply

1. What does it mean for you to 'go and do likewise' in your current context?

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2. How can you make compassion a regular part of your character?

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3. In what ways can your life reflect Christ's love to others clearly?

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Day 7: 🙏 Living as Good Neighbors

# Journaling Prompts

1. Write a personal mission statement about living neighborly love.

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2. Explore habits you can develop to practice daily compassion.

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3. Describe your vision for a community shaped by Gospel love.

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Day 7: 🙏 Living as Good Neighbors

## Prayer for Today

**Father, help me to live as a Good Neighbor every day.** Let my actions reflect Your mercy, kindness, and love. May my life be a beacon of Your grace, drawing others closer to You. Empower me by Your Spirit to break down barriers and to serve those in need with joy and humility. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* ✨ 🙌 ❤️ 🙏





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