






Living the Gospel Through Compassion



Explore the Gospel's heart through the story of the Good Samaritan, learning how compassion in action exemplifies true godliness.



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Introduction

The Gospels present us with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, inviting us into a vibrant journey of faith. Among these teachings, the parable of the *Good Samaritan* stands out as a powerful illustration of compassion in action, demonstrating what true godliness looks like in everyday life. **Compassion** is not just a feeling but a call to active love that breaks cultural and social boundaries.

This three-day study will immerse you in Luke 10:25–37, allowing you to reflect on the depth of Jesus' message. We will explore how compassion goes beyond mere kindness—it is an intentional response to human suffering, motivated by God's love. You will be encouraged to recognize how Jesus redefines neighborliness, urging us to reach beyond our comfort zones and prejudices.


As you engage with Scripture throughout this plan, expect to deepen your understanding of *godly compassion*, be challenged to live it out boldly, and find encouragement that your actions can reflect God's kingdom here on earth. Let's journey together to grasp the heart of Jesus' teaching and embody it in our lives.





Day 1: Encountering the Good Samaritan



Day 1:  Encountering the Good Samaritan

Your Verse

Luke 10:25–29 NIV - "And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Micah 6:8 - 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'*
- *Matthew 22:37-39 - 'Love the Lord your God... and love your neighbor as yourself.'*



Devotional: Rediscovering the Heart of Neighborly Love

As we begin, we enter the context of a question meant to test Jesus: 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' The lawyer's question is sincere, yet loaded with the expectations of the law. Jesus responds by turning the focus on love—love for God and love for neighbor. This sets the foundation for the parable that follows.

The parable begins with a wounded man left for dead on the roadside. Two respected religious figures pass him by, perhaps constrained by ritual, fear, or indifference. Then a Samaritan, a social outcast to the Jews, stops and shows mercy. This shocks the original questioner and us because it breaks boundaries and redefines 'neighbor.'

What does this tell us about God's priorities? Compassion honors human dignity beyond laws and cultural divides. The Samaritan's actions embody love that is intentional, sacrificial, and practical.

Take time to let this challenge sink in: **God's kingdom is evident when love turns into action, especially toward those society overlooks.** Today, let's begin by seeing how Jesus challenges us to reexamine who qualifies as our neighbor.



Reflect and Apply

1. Why do you think the lawyer asked Jesus the question he did?

2. How do the actions of the priest and Levite contrast with the Samaritan's?

3. In what ways do societal or personal biases affect how we define 'neighbor' today?




Journaling Prompts

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

2. 2. Reflect on a time you witnessed compassion that broke social or cultural barriers.

3. 3. Consider how Jesus' definition of neighbor challenges your current relationships.



Day 1:  Encountering the Good Samaritan

Prayer for Today

Lord, open my eyes to see those You call me to love beyond my comfort zones. Help me to embrace compassion as more than a feeling but as a daily choice that reflects Your heart. Teach me to act boldly like the Good Samaritan, showing mercy where it is needed most. May Your love reshape my understanding of 'neighbor,' breaking down walls of prejudice and fear. Fill me with courage and grace to follow Your example.





Day 2: 💡 Compassion in Practical Action



Your Verse

Luke 10:30-35 NIV - "But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was... filled with compassion, he went to him and bandaged his wounds."

Supporting Scriptures

- *James 2:14-17 - 'Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.'*
- *Galatians 6:2 - 'Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.'*



Devotional: Faith Expressed Through Compassionate Acts

Compassion is more than empathy; it requires action. The Good Samaritan demonstrates what it means to see another's pain and respond with tangible help. He intervenes where others walked by—bandaging wounds, offering care, and ensuring ongoing support.

Notice how the Samaritan goes beyond the momentary act of kindness. He invests resources and time, hiring an innkeeper to care for the injured man. This teaches us that compassion often comes with sacrifice and commitment.

In our lives, compassion might look like helping a neighbor, standing with the marginalized, or providing for those in need. Our faith calls us to embody Christ's love actively, not merely in words or intentions. When Jesus speaks of the Samaritan, He highlights that godliness is expressed through love in action.

How might God be calling you to show practical compassion today? Reflect on ways to serve beyond surface-level empathy and commit to being a neighbor who acts.



Reflect and Apply

1. What does the Good Samaritan's care teach about the connection between faith and works?

2. What practical steps can you take to show compassion in your community?

3. How do you respond when compassion requires sacrifice or inconvenience?



Journaling Prompts

1. 1. Describe a situation where you were able to show compassion actively.

2. 2. Write about a person or group you feel God is leading you to help.

3. 3. Reflect on any fears or barriers that hold you back from compassionate action.



Day 2: 💡 Compassion in Practical Action

Prayer for Today

Father, cultivate a heart within me that moves beyond sympathy to action. Help me to be present where others suffer and respond with Your love through tangible deeds. Teach me to sacrifice willingly and care generously, trusting that Your Spirit guides my efforts. May my hands and feet be instruments of Your compassion that bring healing and hope.





Day 3: 🌍 Living Godliness Through Compassion



Your Verse

Luke 10:36-37 NIV - "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

Supporting Scriptures

- *1 John 3:17 - 'If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?'*
- *Colossians 3:12 - 'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'*



Devotional: Embodying Godliness Through Active Compassion

Jesus closes the parable by asking a question that strips away excuses and reveals true godliness: **Who is your neighbor?** The answer is the one who shows mercy. This transformational teaching redefines community and calls us to a lifestyle of compassion.

True godliness is marked by active compassion that crosses all barriers—ethnic, social, or personal. It is a daily choice to clothe ourselves with kindness and live out God's love practically.

As followers of Christ, we are invited to be the Samaritan in a world hurting and divided. Our faith is not inward-looking but moves outward, building bridges and healing wounds.

Consider what it means to live out your faith consistently through compassionate acts. Challenge yourself to embody the gospel in ways that bring glory to God and reflect His mercy to a watching world.



Reflect and Apply

1. How has Jesus redefined 'neighbor' in your understanding?

2. In what ways does compassion reflect true godliness?

3. How can your daily life be a witness to God's mercy?



Journaling Prompts

1. 1. Reflect on ways your faith has influenced your compassion toward others.

2. 2. Write about a challenge you face in living out compassion and possible ways to overcome it.

3. 3. Commit to one practical act of compassion you will do this week.



Day 3: 🌍 Living Godliness Through Compassion

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, help me to live a faith that is visibly compassionate and truly godly. Shape my heart to see others as You see them and to act with mercy without hesitation. Empower me to break down barriers and be a reflection of Your kingdom here. May my life be a testimony of your love, kindness, and humility.





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