

# THE GREAT REVERSAL

## The Good Neighbor

Passage: Luke 10:25-37

*Life Group Guide | Sunday, March 6, 2022*

**Big Idea:** Jesus redefines what it means to see a neighbor and be a neighbor.

**Purpose:** To change the way we see and respond to our neighbors.

**Read Luke 10:25-37.**

Think about a road trip you've taken regularly. Is there an area you try to avoid? Why?

Going through Samaria is a shorter, less-traveled route to Jerusalem, but many Jews would travel many extra miles to avoid Samaria completely. Jews considered Samaritans to be unclean. Moreover, this direct route was rugged and dangerous.

The priest and the Levite would have been the expected "heroes" of the parable, The Samaritan would not. The concept of the "Good Samaritan" would have been as foreign to the disciples as the idea of "The Good \_\_\_\_\_" would be for us. (How would you fill in that blank?)

Popular understanding for Jews at that time would have been "**neighbor = fellow Israelite**" — someone who thinks like me, acts like me, votes like me. What about you? How would you answer the question, "Who is my neighbor?"

Eugene Peterson said that Jesus's story isn't meant to define neighbors, it is meant to create neighbors. Does that change your understanding? How so or how not?

What about the idea that this is not a parable of being good people, but a parable of death and resurrection? How do you react to the idea that we are meant to identify with the traveler left for dead on the road?

"The experience of mercy should lead to the expression of mercy." Have you found this to be true? How? Who is in your path who needs help, love and mercy? How might avoid sidestepping the opportunities this week?

**Re-read Luke 10:25-37.** Pray for God to show you new ways to respond to opportunities — and to avoid sidestepping them.