

# LIFE GROUP

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Loving Others August 25, 2024

#### Summary

In the message, Pastor Dale began by portraying the three men who came across the beaten man in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Then, Pastor Dale emphasized that real love is an act of will, not merely a feeling, and it begins with recognizing our inability to love perfectly without divine assistance. Ultimately, it's through understanding and experiencing God's immense love for us that we can genuinely extend that love to others, including those who may challenge or oppose us.

#### Scripture

They lurk in ambush in the villages, waiting to murder innocent people. They are always searching for helpless victims. Like lions crouched in hiding, they wait to pounce on the helpless. Like hunters they capture the helpless and drag them away in nets. Their helpless victims are crushed; they fall beneath the strength of the wicked. The wicked think, "God isn't watching us! He has closed his eyes and won't even see what we do!" Arise, O LORD! Punish the wicked, O God! Do not ignore the helpless! Psalm 10:8-12 (NLT)

Then this message came to me from the LORD: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: What sorrow awaits you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn't shepherds feed their sheep?" Ezekiel 34:1-2 (NLT)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends... John 15:12-13 (NIV)

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:35-36 (NIV)

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?" Luke 10:25-29 (NLT)

Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them." Luke 11:46 (NIV)

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### Let's Start

Think about a time when you had to make a difficult choice about helping someone in need. How did you decide what to do, and what influenced your decision?

### Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

### Let's Talk

1. What was something new you learned in this message?
2. Reflect on the roles of the Priest and the Levite in the parable. How do their actions (or lack thereof) challenge our understanding of what it means to be a "neighbor"?
3. In what ways does the Samaritan's response to the injured man exemplify true love? How can we apply this example to our own lives?
4. Discuss a time when you struggled to love someone who was difficult or different from you. How can the message of this sermon help you address similar situations in the future?
5. Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself" includes loving people who may not share our values or beliefs. How can we navigate loving people with whom we strongly disagree?
6. How does the story of the Good Samaritan reflect the broader message of the gospel? In what ways does it challenge or reinforce your view of what it means to follow Jesus?

### Let's Act

How can you show love to a difficult person in your life this week?

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