

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ consider the needs of others above their own by serving others with love and humility (Philippians 2:3–4).

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 10:25–37

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The lawyer mentioned in this passage wasn't what we think of when we hear the word *lawyer*. Instead of a courtroom attorney, he was a student of Old Testament Law—more of a theological expert than criminal defense. But these religious leaders enjoyed a good debate, similar to most lawyers today. His line of questioning toward Jesus leads us to believe that the lawyer wasn't really interested in finding the truth but more likely trying to bait Jesus into a debate with the hopes of finally tripping Jesus up.¹ Whether he was honestly seeking the truth or not, the truth is precisely what Jesus taught him.

Check out the *Teacher Prep Video* for this lesson: <https://vimeo.com/1065899171>



OPENING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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GAME or ICE BREAKER

Based on your group's size, choose a **Game** from **Deep Discipleship Games** OR use the **Ice Breaker** prompt.

- **Game**—We recommend **Knock, Knock, Who's There?** or choose another screen game from **Deep Discipleship Games**
- **Ice Breaker**— Describe a time when you traveled somewhere and met someone you normally wouldn't encounter.

WORSHIP

Craft a time of worship with a live band or sing along to a playlist.

- Check out our curated Spotify list. We understand that every church has a different theological view of worship. These songs are suggestions, please pick what works best for your church.
- <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2xmeIKGUjkEE7bJYScbRwe?si=d254ec715a4749e5>

MEDIA AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

1. Play background music (optional)
2. Display **SERIES TITLE Slide** and announcement slides in a loop or customize the provided **PowerPoint**.
3. Play a 5-minute Countdown Timer 5:00 minutes before you start.

DEEP DISCIPLESHIP GAMES

Find free games in **Deep Discipleship Games**. It's already included with your Deep Discipleship subscription. View the game in advance in case you need supplies or slides.

SLIDES (optional)

Use **SERIES Background & Blank Slides** or **PowerPoint** to create lyric slides.

TRANSITION TO MESSAGE

Include a brief element that transitions students from worship to teaching time, like a prayer or video. This will keep students focused and prepared for the message while the band leaves the stage.

VIDEO (optional)

Show **SERIES Promo Video** or **LESSON Intro Video** after the last worship song.

MESSAGE

Use the following teaching points and suggested illustrations as a starting point to build your message.

POINT 1: Jesus models and calls us to God's standard of radical love

Read or have someone in your group read Luke 10:25–28

Throughout the Gospels, the religious leaders of Jesus's time questioned him. When a lawyer asks Jesus what must be done to inherit eternal life, Jesus agrees with the lawyer's summary of the Bible's teaching: love God and others. It may initially seem like Jesus is saying it's possible to earn eternal life, but he knows we cannot live up to this high standard. It is impossible for us to always be filled with love for God and our neighbor. The only person who ever did this was Jesus himself. His life and death models the radical love God wants from every person.

ILLUSTRATION: Tell a **personal story** about a time when someone modeled sacrificial love for you.

True love will always include sacrifice because true love places the needs of others above our own.

SLIDES (optional)

Use the **SERIES PowerPoint OR the Background & Blank Slides** to create these slides to support your message:

- Luke 10:25–28
- Point 1

POINT 2: Loving our neighbors takes sacrifice

Read or have someone in your group read Luke 10:29–35

When the man asks, "And who is my neighbor?" (v. 29), Jesus tells a story that answers the man's question and shows us what love means. In this parable, the people expected to be righteous fail the test of love. But the Good Samaritan shows that true love requires sacrifice. The Samaritan enters a potentially dangerous situation of helping a wounded person on a dangerous road. He uses his resources, time, and money to ensure a stranger is cared for. True love takes sacrifice. Jesus continually reminds us of this in his stories, life, and death.

SLIDES (optional)

- Luke 10:29–35
- Point 2

POINT 3: Jesus calls us and equips us to love everyone

Read or have someone in your group read Luke 10:36–37

We tend to think that we are usually kind and loving, but this story reminds us that Jesus' call to be loving includes incredible sacrifice for seemingly unlovable people. Samaritans and Jews were often considered enemies, but Jesus shows that even those who are seen as enemies are our neighbors. Not only do we need to show them kindness, but this kindness extends to radical sacrifices of time, money, and sometimes even safety. At the end of this passage, Jesus directly challenges the lawyer who

SLIDES (optional)

- Luke 10:36–37
- Point 3



approached him to show mercy like the Samaritan in the parable. This radical call is possible only because Jesus modeled it for us and equips us with his Holy Spirit.

ILLUSTRATION: Tell a **personal story** about a time when God equipped you to do something you would typically be unable to do.

While God's standard of love is above our capabilities, it is not above his. He graciously provides what we need to love others.

CLOSING

MARK OF A DISCIPLE

Disciples of Christ consider the needs of others above their own by serving others with love and humility (Philippians 2:3–4).

SLIDES (optional)

- Mark of a Disciple

FACILITATOR NOTE: DO YOU HAVE SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION RIGHT AWAY?

- If YES, then **STOP HERE**, divide into groups, and provide Small Group Leaders with the **Small Group Breakout Questions** on the next page.
- If NO, then end your gathering with the **Reflect & Respond** questions and **Prayer** prompt below.

REFLECT & RESPOND

Give the students time to silently think through what they have heard and contemplate these questions:

- Who are the “neighbors” in your life that you often ignore or overlook?
- How could you be more loving to the people God has placed in your life?

SLIDES (optional)

Use the **SERIES PowerPoint OR the Background & Blank Slides** to display the **Reflect & Respond** questions.

FACILITATOR NOTE: Don't rush this part. Give the students a few minutes to consider how they can better serve others in love and humility.

PRAYER

Take time to pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal people in our lives that God has called us to love and equip us to show sacrificial mercy toward them.



SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT (OPTIONAL)

Pick a few questions from each section to discuss. Close with prayer.

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

Build Meaningful Relationships

- **Who are the “neighbors” we are called to love?**
The passage shows that anyone we encounter is our neighbor. Sometimes, the hardest neighbors to love are our siblings, classmates, and others with whom we spend much time.
- **How does this challenging parable make you feel?**
Answers will vary. It’s possible that at different times in our lives, we can identify with almost every person in this passage—the challenging lawyer, the injured man desperate for help, the careless priest and Levite, and, hopefully, the Samaritan.

Share Personal Stories & Ask Intentional Questions

- **Does Jesus’ answer in verse 28 mean we can earn eternal life with good works?**
No. We can never truly love God or our neighbor without the Holy Spirit. Compare the kind of love you have for the people you love the most to how the Bible defines love (1 Cor. 13:4–7) to see how far our love falls short of God’s standard.
- **Why does Jesus mention the social and ethnic status of the three men?**
The first two men are important members of Jewish society, and Jesus’ audience would see them as holy and righteous. The third man is a Samaritan, a hated group that did not follow the Old Testament’s teaching. The one assumed to be the least likely to help was the only one who showed love and mercy.
- **What does this passage show us about Jesus’ desire for his disciples?**
He wants us to model the sacrificial love he showed throughout his life, ministry, and death.
- **Why does the man ask, “And who is my neighbor?”**
Because he was trying to “justify himself” (v. 29). He knew he did not truly love everyone and may have been hoping for an easier call.

Make Life Application & Hold Students Accountable

- **How can we better love God and our neighbor?**
We can only do this through surrender to God and by relying on the Holy Spirit. We can grow in our love through prayer, Scripture, and connection with other Christ-followers.
- **What does it mean to show “mercy” (v. 37), and how can we better show it?**
This passage defines mercy by the action of the Samaritan. He sacrifices his own comfort and safety by helping someone who cannot help himself.

PRAYER

Take time to pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal people in our lives that God has called us to love and equip us to show sacrificial mercy toward them.

Use this space to keep track of any prayer requests.

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¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992), 173.

