

Community Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

July 12th, 2026 | The Parables of Jesus

Opening Question:

Has someone ever helped you at a moment when you really needed it; maybe someone unexpected, or someone who went further than you thought they would? What did that feel like?

Setting the Scene:

A lawyer stands up to test Jesus with a question about eternal life and Jesus turns it back on him. The lawyer knows the Law perfectly. He gives the right answer, but Jesus says 'do this and you will live'. Suddenly the lawyer realizes the standard is complete, total, every-time obedience. So he tries to lower the bar: 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus doesn't answer the question directly. He tells a story. The sermon noted that the parables of Jesus were designed to sift hearts, not just inform minds, and this parable does exactly that. It exposes the lawyer's real problem, shows us where to find ourselves in the story, and then points us to the only One who can actually fulfill what the Law requires.

Read The Text: Read aloud: Luke 10:25–37 Consider assigning different readers: one for the lawyer's questions (vv. 25–29), one for the narrative (vv. 30–35), one for Jesus' closing exchange (vv. 36–37)

What Does it Say?

1. What word or phrase stood out to you when we read these passages? Why do you think it caught your attention?

This question helps everyone slow down and observe the text before jumping to application. Encourage people to share what stood out and consider how that detail contributes to Jesus' overall message.

2. What is significant about the questions that the lawyer asks? How does Jesus answer and this parable reveal the questions he should have been asking?

Help the group notice that the lawyer begins by asking how to inherit eternal life and then seeks to justify himself by asking, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus responds in a way that shifts the focus from defining the minimum requirement to exposing the condition of the heart. Rather than asking, "Who deserves my love?" the deeper question becomes, "Do I recognize my own need for God's mercy?"

3. In what ways do the good Samaritans' actions point to the true savior, Christ?

Guide the group to see that the Samaritan reflects the compassion, sacrifice, and mercy that Jesus Himself shows to sinners. While we can certainly learn from the Samaritan's example, the greater picture is that Christ is the One who comes to us in our helplessness, bears the cost of our rescue, and provides complete restoration.

What Does it Mean?

1. The sermon said the Law was never given to us as a ladder to climb but as a mirror to expose. Romans 3:20 says "by the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin." How does understanding the Law as a mirror rather than a ladder change the way you read this parable and the way you approach God?

Help the group see that the purpose of God's Law is not to show us how to earn salvation but to reveal how deeply we need it. When we read the parable through that lens, our focus shifts from asking whether we've done enough to recognizing our need for the grace that only Christ provides.

2. Jesus is the unexpected Savior who comes to us when we are left for dead, covers our wounds at his own cost, and pays whatever it takes to fully restore us. Is it easier for you to see yourself as the Samaritan in this story or as the man in the ditch? What do you think your answer reveals?

Encourage honest reflection without rushing to the "right" answer. Many of us naturally identify with the Samaritan because we want to see ourselves as the helper, but the gospel first invites us to recognize that we are the ones in desperate need of rescue. Our answer often reveals whether we are resting in Christ's mercy or relying on our own goodness.

What Does it Ask of Us?

1. The sermon noted that the prideful overlook the requirements of the Law while the humble fulfill them. Where in your life is religious busyness, self-protection, or pride causing you to pass by someone who needs you to stop?

Help the group think about the people God has already placed in their lives rather than searching for hypothetical situations. The goal is not to create guilt but to ask whether love for Christ is shaping the way we see and respond to the needs of others each day.

2. What is one specific thing you sense the gospel calling you to trust God with or do differently this week, not out of duty to be a better person, but out of delight in what Christ has already done for you?

End by helping the group connect obedience to gratitude rather than obligation. Encourage everyone to identify one practical step that flows from remembering the mercy they have already received in Christ, allowing the gospel, not guilt, to become the motivation for loving God and serving others.

Weekly Challenge:

This week, think of someone who is "in the ditch" that you can reach out to in love. In what ways could you show love that is compassionate, caring, costly, and complete? take one step toward them that costs you something: your time, your comfort, your money, or your pride.