



DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

12 & 13 MARCH 2022

“HOW DOES A DISCIPLE LOVE?”

LUKE 10.25-37

The main study guide material for this sermon series is to be purchased at <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/for-everyone-bible-study-guide-215>.

It is recommended that the e-book be purchased. Nevertheless, individuals or Connect Groups that wish to purchase hardcopies may do so from physical Christian bookstores, or online stores (Amazon, Bookdepository, Blackwells, etc)

The material in this document is intentionally brief. It is intended as a supplement only.

- **Begin by reading the Scripture passage together.**
- **Review the video of the sermon if needed (see <http://www.brmc.org.sg/category/resources/sermons>).**
- **Refer to the [main study guide](#) Chapter 12 as well as this supplementary material.**
- **Feel free to discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.**
- **Remember to allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another, before ending your group session.**

Info Sidebox
The nature of discipleship: Being a Good Neighbour

At first glance, loving your neighbour as yourself seems an unambiguous, even straightforward commandment. The extent of that love is limited only by how you would love yourself. Other than this, the commandment does not prescribe what love means or what you must do to demonstrate love. The commandment becomes daunting when we realise that our reference is the unconstrained and unfettered love of our God and we have been commanded to love likewise.

Like the expert in Law, we may well turn the focus to its application, i.e. who constitutes a neighbour and is therefore deserving of the love we have for ourselves. In those times, priests and Levites were respected leaders and experts. What is interesting to note is that the priest and the Levite did not love the injured man as a neighbour. For whatever reasons (the text does not explicitly say), perhaps in the name of "holiness", they chose to look the other way. They chose to ignore the greatest Law of all and defer to a lower order imperative.

In contrast, the Samaritans were a community despised by the Jews of Jesus' day. Yet, the Samaritan, neither a respected priest, Levite nor expert in the Law, chose to obey the Law. Neither the 'honourable' priest nor the Levite recognised a person in need as their neighbour. Yet, it was a 'dishonourable' Samaritan who showed compassion for a stranger and acted to help.

And note how Jesus responds. Ultimately, he did not answer the original question "who is my neighbour", that is, "who is deserving of my love and care?" Instead, Jesus asked a question of his own, that is, "who among these characters became a neighbour to the injured man?" In other words, which of us will be a good neighbour to one in need?

Response, Application, Prayer

1. Consider what being a good neighbour looks like in this culturally and socio-economically diverse world in which we live.
 - a. When you think of individuals or a community that is different from you, in what ways do you regard them as strangers or unlike you?
 - b. We share a common humanity because we are all created in the image of God (Gen 1). How may knowing this change your perception of others, help you better see them as neighbours, and perhaps enable you to overcome cultural barriers that hinder you from loving your neighbour?
 - c. Pray for divine appointments, for opportunities and courage to get to know those who are unlike us, and to demonstrate God's love through friendship.

2. What are some practical challenges you face in loving others the way you love yourself? What can you do to overcome them?
 - a. Pray for one another, asking for God's strength, wisdom, and guidance in overcoming these challenges in loving others as ourselves. Pray that we will show forth his generous and self-giving love in a self-centred and cynical world.