



CONNECT

WEEK 4: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Mission — The Call to Action

Monday: Love That Crosses the Road

Scripture: Luke 10:25–37

[25] And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” [26] He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” [27] And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” [28] And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

[29] But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” [30] Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. [31] Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. [32] So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. [33] But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. [34] He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. [35] And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ [36] Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” [37] He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

The Good Samaritan didn’t stop to ask, “Who counts as my neighbor?” He simply saw someone hurting and became one. Jesus tells this story to make the point that love isn’t limited by convenience, similarity, or social boundaries. The Samaritan didn’t share a background, culture, or belief system with the man on the side of the road, but compassion moved him to act anyway.

What’s striking is how ordinary the Samaritan’s actions were: he noticed, he stopped, and he cared. The priest and Levite saw the same man and walked past. The difference wasn’t opportunity—it was willingness. Loving your neighbor doesn’t usually require a heroic act, just a readiness to set aside your own agenda to meet someone else’s need.

Compassion often interrupts our schedules. It may cost us time, energy, or even money. But this story reminds us that real love is rarely convenient. Choosing to love our neighbor means we slow down, cross the road, and step into someone else’s struggle.

REFLECTION

- Where might you need to show up for someone this week?



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Tuesday: Refreshing Hearts

Scripture: Philemon 1:4–7

[4] I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, [5] because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, [6] and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. [7] For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. (ESV)

Paul praised Philemon not for his accomplishments, but for something simpler: he refreshed the hearts of others. What a beautiful legacy. Paul could have highlighted Philemon's leadership skills or knowledge of Scripture, but instead he pointed to how Philemon encouraged and built up the people around him.

Refreshing someone's heart isn't complicated. Sometimes it's a kind word when they feel unseen. Other times it's a note, a prayer, or simply noticing what they're carrying. Encouragement breathes hope into weary souls. When Paul says that Philemon's love brought him joy and comfort, it shows how far encouragement can reach—it strengthens not just one person but ripples out to bless the community.

In a culture that often pushes us to impress, perform, or prove ourselves, Scripture reminds us of a different calling: to refresh others. That's something every believer can do, no matter your gifts or stage of life. You don't have to be "super impressive" or "super spiritual." You just have to choose to see people and speak life into them.

REFLECTION

- Who can you encourage today?



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Wednesday: Shining Without Spotlight

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16

[14] “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

When Jesus said, “Let your light shine before others,” He wasn’t telling us to put ourselves in the spotlight. He was reminding us that a faithful life points people to God. Light isn’t meant to draw attention to itself; its job is to illuminate what’s around it. Our good deeds aren’t about us getting noticed—they’re about helping others see the goodness of God.

Think about how light works. It’s not trying to be loud or dramatic; it simply shines. Even the tiniest light makes a difference in a dark room. In the same way, consistent faithfulness creates something that stands out. People may not comment on it, but you can be sure they notice the difference you make in the places you show up when you live like you love Jesus.

Being a light doesn’t require your holy perfection. In fact, sometimes people see Christ most clearly through how we handle our imperfections—when we admit mistakes, extend grace, and keep pursuing Him. The question isn’t whether your life is shining brightly enough, but whether it’s pointing people toward the true source of light.

REFLECTION

- What part of your life reflects Jesus to your neighbors?



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Thursday: Back to the Basics

Scripture: Micah 6:8

*[8] He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? (ESV)*

“Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly.” In one verse, God sums up what He desires from His people. These aren’t complicated theological concepts—they’re simple, everyday actions. Justice, mercy, and humility are meant to shape the way we live in community with others.

Acting justly means choosing fairness and integrity, even when it costs you something.

Loving mercy means showing compassion when others fall short, just as God has shown mercy to us.

Walking humbly means living with dependence on God instead of pride in ourselves.

Each one challenges our natural tendencies, and together they paint a picture of what a God-shaped life looks like.

This verse serves as a compass for the Christian life. When decisions feel overwhelming or faith feels complicated, Micah 6:8 brings us back to the basics. Justice. Mercy. Humility. If we consistently practice these, our lives will reflect the heart of God to a world that desperately needs it.

REFLECTION

- Which of these three do you find most challenging—and why?



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Friday: The Mission of Love

Scripture: Matthew 28:19–20

[19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (ESV)

Right before Jesus returned to heaven, He gave His followers clear instructions: “Go and make disciples.” That’s the mission. He didn’t call us to make people feel inspired for a moment; He called us to walk with others as they learn to follow Him. Loving our neighbors includes meeting their needs, but it ultimately means pointing them to Jesus, the only One who can save.

Making disciples may sound intimidating, but it often starts with small steps. Sharing your faith doesn’t always look like preaching; it can be inviting a neighbor to church, offering to pray for a coworker, or sharing how Jesus has worked in your own life. Every disciple-making moment begins with relationship and continues with intentional investment.

The promise at the end of this command is just as important as the command itself: “I am with you always.” We don’t go into the world alone. The same Jesus who sends us also walks with us, equipping and empowering us for the mission. Loving your neighbor is never about what you can do on your own—it’s about what He does through you.

REFLECTION

- Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus?



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