

## **life groups' sermon guide**

### **kingsway underground - community**



*Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for the life application of the Core 4 elements of worship, grow, serve, and share.*

*In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, hands of robbers They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins<sup>[e]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'*

*"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"*

*The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."*

*Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

#### **Luke 10:30-37**

*Lukewarm people are thankful for their luxuries and comforts, and rarely consider giving as much as possible to the poor.*

#### **Francis Chan**

I have read the Good Samaritan many times. It has always seemed very straight forward, and I even thought that I got it. But I've come to realization that I didn't. It was an abstracted concept to me.

There are times where God is subtle, allowing you to come to realization about something over time and with comfort. And then there are times when he throws it in your face and asks you what you are going to do with it. This week has been one of those for me.

As I write this, I am sitting in a small cafe in downtown San Francisco. Walking here from my hotel, I passed no fewer than 10 homeless people. At least one of them was schizophrenic. On the bulletin board of this cafe is a help line for people who have just found out they have AIDS.

It is something that struck me from the first moment I got out of my taxi in this city – and it was my first day that held an education experience into my own nature. My taxi driver dropped me off at the wrong hotel - a mile south and 350 feet lower in elevation than I needed to be. I decided to walk, rather than pay for another ride. On the way to my hotel, while trekking up a 12% incline with my luggage, I passed a man who was literally asleep on the sidewalk, face down on the concrete.

As I walked by I was staring at Luke 10:30 laying on the sidewalks of San Francisco.

[Q] Have you ever witnessed a parable in real life? What happened?

I'd like to say that my immediate reaction was to stop. But it wasn't. I created excuses in my head – I was late, I was overly burdened with luggage, someone else would help, he probably didn't need help. So I kept going. But every step was harder than the next. As I walked away the spirit laid on my heart what I was facing – was the Bible just mere words, or was I going to do what Jesus had commanded. So I turned around.

I'd like to be able end this up with a grand tale of me carrying him to the hotel and providing for him. But in reality, he was just annoyed with me for waking him up. But the test wasn't in what I did for him, but in whether or not I would be obedient to what God had told me.

[Q] Have you ever had or witnessed a “Luke 10:30 experience”? What happened?

[Q] What are some of the excuses we use to justify not helping others.

It begs the question of why we so easily dismiss people as outside our influence. Jesus told us to love those in need - actually went so far as to say that the actions we show towards them are actually directed at him. This is easy to read over as part of scripture, because we have read it hundreds of times, and it is easy to unconsciously dismiss it as an abstract concept.

But it is not abstract. Think about your spouse or other family members. When you do things *for* them that are above and beyond then you are loving them, even though that action is not a direct act upon them. It shows that we are faithful and considerate of them. Likewise, when we do not do those things it shows a lack of consideration and sense that you take them for granted.

It is the same with Jesus.

### **Group Exercise**

Break up into groups of 4-6 people. Each group to discuss several things:

[Q] What is the Biblical definition of community and neighbor? It is extremely important that we begin with the Bible. Our opinions and thoughts are flawed and selfish - we must be grounded.

[Q] With that definition in mind, who are your personal neighbors? Who are Kingsway's community neighbors?

After 15 minutes, present your findings to the main group. Make a list of passages and neighbors from each group. Once you have done this, go back into your groups and discuss the following for 10 minutes:

[Q] In what ways have we as Christians failed these groups? What is the cause for this?

[Q] What does the Bible say we should be doing for these groups? Be specific.

Like before, share your group's list with the main group. Compile all the smaller lists into one. As a large group, discuss and investigate the following:

[Q] What can we as individuals, groups, and as a church body to accomplish the items in this list?

[Q] What does the Bible say will stand in our way of acting? What does it say the result will be of us loving these people in Christ's name?

[Q] What does the Bible say about the relationship between caring for these people and sharing the Gospel?

### **Application**

[A] Who are your neighbors?

[A] How can you serve them?

[A] What are your personal excuses? What does the Bible say about them? Grab a concordance and find out.