

# WEEK 3: WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

## The Good Samaritan

*The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" – Luke 10:29*

**Read: Luke 10:25-37**

Many would consider a man named Bennie Newton a modern-day Good Samaritan. During the Los Angeles riots of 1992, he left his home in the area to see what he could do to help. He came upon a man being beaten almost to death. According to multiple news reports, as well as the victim's account of the event, Bennie Newton laid himself across the barely breathing body of Fidel Lopez and said, "You're going to have to kill me, too." The rioters backed off and Mr. Newton ended up driving Mr. Lopez to the hospital himself when emergency vehicles were unable to get to the area.

Bennie Newton was a pastor. But prior to meeting Jesus, he had served time for armed robbery and drug dealing. He was someone many people might have considered unworthy or beyond hope. But he had found grace and mercy in Jesus and spent the rest of his life offering it to others.

The religious law expert in this week's Bible passage posed a question to Jesus: "Who is my neighbor?" He wanted an easy answer about which groups of people he would be required to show mercy. But Jesus knew there was a different lesson to be learned. Rather than thinking about which people qualify as our neighbors, we should be seeking how to show God's mercy to *anyone and everyone* God puts in our paths.

Look for practical ways to be a Good Samaritan this week. You just might find that there are opportunities God will use you to show his love and mercy everywhere you turn if you are looking for them.

### QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Are there any groups/categories of people you are tempted to see as being "lesser than" or undeserving of God's grace or help? Any groups you might be tempted to pretend you don't notice? There is no shame in this. Only God can heal our hurts and change our perspectives. Don't be afraid to honestly explore this with Him.
2. When were you helped in an unexpected way or by someone you least expected?
3. Is there someone who comes to mind when you think of a "neighbor" who needs your help?