

# BEING A NEIGHBOR



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**1**

# **BEING A CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR**

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**2**

**WHO ARE OUR NEIGHBORS?**

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**DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE** ⌚ 30 mins



Arrange each member of the small group to sit with those who identify with the same character that he or she most identifies with. Ask them to share their connection with their character. Use the prompts below to generate discussion.

**Why the lawyer?**

An expert in Old Testament Jewish laws. He is a person of detail and exactness. Are you often trying to check off all the right boxes?

**Why the victim?**

We know that the man in the ditch was Jewish and left "half dead," with no other details. Has life been a series of events that has left you beat up?

**Why a robber?**

The road from Jericho to Jerusalem was notorious for bandits and roadside muggings. Has your life has been one of intimidating and taking from others?

**Why a priest/Levite?**

Jericho was home to many priests and Levites, so this was a real-life example of their travelling on this 19-mile stretch of roadway. The Old Testament law prescribed their duty to relieve suffering of human or beast, and yet they look and turn away. Are they acting out of fear, thinking that maybe the robbers are close by? Are they more concerned about obligations at the temple and they don't want to be ceremonially unclean? How do you relate to their inaction?

**Notes**

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**3**

**MARY AND MARTHA**

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**4**

**BEING SENT**

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**5**

**PLACE SHARING**

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**DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE** ⌚ 30 mins



**What motivates us to share life with our neighbor and to introduce them to Jesus?**

Verse 14 says that it is the “love of Christ” in me and through me that both fuels and drives me.

**What happened for all of humanity in the work and person of Jesus?**

When Christ died, we all died. That is, Jesus died for all humans – those already dead, those alive at the time, and for those yet unborn. His death brought about universal forgiveness and for all humans to become “new creations” in him and experience the life he intended for us.

**How does Jesus view our neighbor?**

Because of Jesus’ vicarious sacrifice, our neighbor is reconciled to God, and God is not keeping record of his or her sins. New life is extended to our neighbor. In 2 Corinthians 6:1, the urging is for humanity to accept this freely given grace and to live their lives united to Christ.

**How are we as Christ-followers to see our neighbor?**

We should not see our neighbors in a “worldly way,” the way we did before we knew Jesus. We must see our neighbor under the spilled blood of Jesus and as a beloved child of God.

**Notes**

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# 6

## PARTICIPATING IN CHRIST'S WORK AS A NEIGHBOR

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**DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE** ⌚ 30 mins



**What is the emotional state of the disciples on Sunday after their Lord was crucified and killed on Friday?**

They are in a “locked” room. There is fear, confusion, and the absence of peace – “Maybe the soldiers are coming for us next!”

**What do we make of the instructions Jesus gives?**

The first thing Jesus does is to restore peace. This peace is more than a trouble-free, tranquil feeling; it is the assurance of the enduring presence of Jesus. By the presence of the Spirit there remains a lasting peace that surpasses human understanding.

The Father’s sending of the Son is the foundation now for their being sent. The mission of Christ followers is to continue the salvation mission of the Son.

The giving and receiving of the Holy Spirit is paramount. As Jesus breathes the Spirit on them, it is parallel to Genesis 2:7, when the Lord breathed the breath of life into Adam. It is by receiving the Spirit that new life in Christ is actuated, and it is only by the guiding power of the Spirit that the disciples can be able messengers of the gospel.

**Notes**

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