

## Parable of the Good Samaritan

# Small Group Questions

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*The following questions are intended to start conversations. Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.*

*Our preaching series during the season of Epiphany will consider various parables of the kingdom (Scandalous Kingdom). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories **BEFORE** you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.*

- The Good Samaritan is one of Jesus best known parables. Take a moment to summarize the story as you remember it. What is the main point?
- The term “Good Samaritan” is still used in our culture. What does it mean when someone is described this way?
- Read **Luke 10:25-37**. What stands out for you?
- Notice the initial conversation with the expert in the law (vs. 25-28). What is significant in this dialogue? How is it connected to the subsequent parable?
- What question prompted Jesus to tell this parable? How does this inform how we approach this story?
- Although there are three main characters, the priest and the Levite function as one. What are the similarities between these two? What is the primary difference between the priest/Levite and the Samaritan? (pay particular attention to the verbs)
- What do you know about Samaritans? Who were they and where did they come from? Why were they so despised by the Jewish people (notice that the expert in the law could not even say the word in verse 37)?
- According to the parable, who is the neighbor? What is the implication of this answer?
- Most people read this parable as an instruction to be a Good Samaritan. While this is certainly implied, the force of this parable lands elsewhere. This is not primarily a parable about how to love but who to love—and in the context of the narrative, who you are called to love is the person you most despise. Do you agree with this reading?
- Who are those people in your world? How might you love them?