

Beyond Sunday

7.19.2026 — The Storyteller

The Good Samaritan — Mark Tumney

Gather

These questions help build connections with others as you share personal experiences.

1. Share about a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or compassion. How did it affect you?
2. Have you ever been in a situation where you wanted to help someone but found yourself making excuses? What made it difficult?

Grow

These questions guide your group through Scripture from Sunday's sermon, helping us better understand God's Word and His work in our lives.

1. Read Luke 10:25–37 together.

- What motivated the lawyer to ask Jesus his questions? (vv. 25, 29)
- Why do you think Luke tells us that the lawyer "wanted to justify himself"?
- In what ways are we tempted to define the limits of who deserves our love?

2. The Priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan

- Compare the responses of the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan.
- Jesus never tells us why the religious leaders passed by. Why do you think He leaves their motives unexplained?
- What are some of the common excuses Christians today might use for not loving their neighbors?

3. Seeing Ourselves in the Story

- Why is this such an important to experience the story as if we were the wounded man?
- How does seeing Jesus as the true and greater Good Samaritan deepen your understanding of the gospel?
- Read **Romans 5:8** and **Ephesians 2:4-5**. How do these passages reinforce this picture of Christ?

4. "Go and Do Likewise"

Jesus ends the parable with a command.

- Why is Jesus **not** simply telling us to "try harder"?
- According to the sermon, how does gratitude for Christ's mercy produce compassion for others?
- Who are the "people in the ditch" that God may be placing in your path today?

Give / Go

These questions help us apply what we've learned through faithful obedience.

1. The wounded man in the story is simply the person God places in our path. Is there someone in your life right now whom God may be inviting you to notice, serve, encourage, or care for?
2. How might reflecting on Christ's mercy change the way you respond to people throughout your week?
3. Before your next busy day begins, pray:
"Lord, who have You placed in my path today?"
What is one practical step you can take this week to remain attentive to God's answer?

Prayer

Take time to share how the group can be praying for one another.

Prayer Question

- Where do you need God's help to become more attentive to the people He places in your path?
- Is there someone who needs mercy, encouragement, forgiveness, or practical care this week that we can pray for together?

Scripture to Pray

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

Going Deeper

If you are interested in exploring the themes of this week a bit deeper, check out one of these resources:

Book

- *The First Time we Saw Him: Awakening to the Wonder of Jesus* by Matt Mikalatos
- <https://a.co/d/03HHVcF5>

Video

- *Are we Reading the Good Samaritan Backwards?* The Caffeinated Bible with David Paris
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7p4aIIG13s>

The Practice of Compassion

Daily Prayer of Availability

Begin each morning by praying:

"Lord Jesus, thank You for showing me mercy. Today, open my eyes to the people You've placed in my path. Give me Your heart to see them, Your compassion to love them, and the courage to stop."

Throughout the day, whenever you encounter someone, silently ask:

"Lord, is this someone You've placed in my path?"

At the end of the day, reflect:

- Where did I notice someone in need?
- When did I stop? When did I hurry past?
- How did I experience God's mercy today?