



RECOMING: NEIGHBORS.

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Becoming People Who Love Our Neighbors

WEEK 1

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

LUKE 10:25–36 (CSB)

For all of the weekly Bible readings in this book, underline what you learn about becoming a neighbor.

²⁵ Then an expert in the law stood up to test Him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the law?” He asked him. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.”

²⁸ “You’ve answered correctly,” He told him. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Jesus took up the question and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him. When I come back I’ll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

Follow-Up Questions

1. Share a brief story of a time you witnessed someone going "out of their way" to help a complete stranger. What struck you about that act?

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2. The expert in the law asked, "Who is my neighbor?" How did Jesus' parable flip this question from defining who we are obligated to help to defining who we should become?

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3. What specific actions did the Samaritan take that demonstrated radical compassion and practical care, going beyond what was expected?

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4. Reflect on your daily or weekly routines. Who are the "neighbors" God has intentionally put in your path that you might be tempted to "pass by on the other side," (either physically or relationally)?

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5. How might our small group or church intentionally embody the characteristics of the Good Samaritan in our local area this month?

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Face-Time with Your Kids

For parents of kindergarten through 5th-grade children:

Before taking your child to bed one night this week, read the verses or share the story and ask the following questions:

1. The Samaritan helped someone who was very different from him. Why do you think he chose to help instead of walking away?
2. Who are some people you see every week—at school, church, or in your neighborhood—that you think God wants you to show kindness to?
3. If you saw someone who needed help, what are some things you could do to show them God's love?

For parents of middle and high-school students, ask your students:

1. What question did the lawyer ask Jesus at the beginning of this story, and how did Jesus answer?
2. Why do you think Jesus told a story instead of just giving a simple answer?
3. Who are the "neighbors" in your world that people often ignore or avoid?
4. What keeps us from helping people when we know we should? Fear? Judgment? Inconvenience?
5. What would it look like to live out the command "love your neighbor as yourself" at your school, with your friends, or on social media?
6. How can you remind yourself this week that "being a neighbor" is an action, not just a feeling?

2 Ways to Reach Your 1 More

*Each week, this section will help equip you with ideas and suggestions for helping you make a spiritual impact in the lives of people in your everyday life. Every one of us can **pray, serve, invite, befriend, and win** others to Christ. Step 1 is **memorizing the 10 words of the gospel and a verse or two** from each phrase.*

- **Pray:** that God would help you see the people around you that need His love. Pray that He would use these passages and sermons to grow your heart for people.
- **Win:** Memorize the 10 words of the gospel and a verse or two to go with each phrase.

Week 1 Sermon Notes

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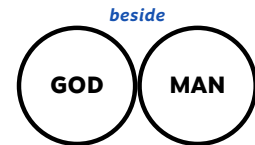
The Gospel in 10 Words

Connect: We follow Jesus and participate in His church. The Gospel communicates how we start a relationship with Jesus and to grow in our relationship with Him. The Gospel is the central message of the Bible and is summarized (below) in **10 Words: God Creates, Sin Breaks, Jesus Saves, Jesus Transforms, God Restores.**

GOD CREATES

God **beside** us! God created all things—including mankind—in His own image to have a relationship with Him.

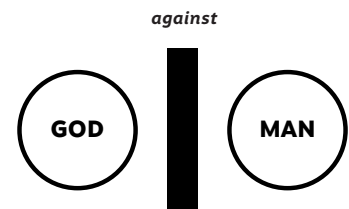
GENESIS 1 • COLOSSIANS 1:15-17 • PSALM 139



SIN BREAKS

God **against** us! Sin broke our relationship, and we are enemies and hostile toward God, separated from Him.

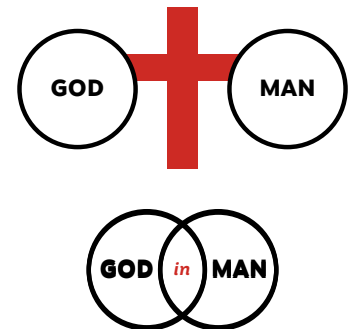
ROMANS 3:10, 3:23, 5:8 • COLOSSIANS 1:21



JESUS SAVES

God **in** us! Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. He forgives and saves all who place their faith in Him and gives them the Holy Spirit.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 • ROMANS 10:9-10



JESUS TRANSFORMS

Jesus **for** us! Jesus is for us! Jesus transforms us to be more like Him through a process of growth and calls us to make more disciples of Him.

MATTHEW 4:19 • PHILIPPIANS 1:6



GOD RESTORES

God **with** us! God with us! One day Jesus will return and will renew and remake all things—including you, the church, and all of creation!

COLOSSIANS 3:4 • REVELATION 21-22



Willing to Share My Faith

WEEK 2

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

JOHN 4:1-26

¹ When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard He was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), ³ He left Judea and went again to Galilee. ⁴ He had to travel through Samaria; ⁵ so He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from His journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give Me a drink," Jesus said to her, ⁸ because His disciples had gone into town to buy food.

⁹ "How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked Him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would ask Him, and He would give you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," said the woman, "You don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do You get this 'living water'?" ¹² You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are You? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock."

¹³ Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. ¹⁴ But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well, of water springing up in him for eternal life."

¹⁵ "Sir," the woman said to Him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water."

¹⁶ "Go call your husband," He told her, "and come back here."

Willing to Share My Faith

WEEK 2

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL (CONTINUED)

JOHN 4:1-26

¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," she answered.

"You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,' " Jesus said. ¹⁸ "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman replied, "I see that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ Jesus told her, "Believe Me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Jesus told her, "I, the one speaking to you, am He."

Follow-Up Questions

1. Describe a time when you had an unexpected conversation with someone that turned out to be surprisingly meaningful or impactful.

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2. What societal, cultural, and gender barriers did Jesus intentionally cross by engaging the Samaritan woman at the well?

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3. What aspects of Jesus' approach to the woman at the well (e.g. His curiosity, directness, revelation of truth, non-judgmental posture) are most striking to you?

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4. *Willing to Share My Faith* is the main point. Think of someone in your life who seems spiritually "thirsty" or is searching. How does Jesus' example inspire or challenge you to engage them in conversation about spiritual things?

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5. What's one small, practical step you can take this week to demonstrate a "willingness to share your faith" with a "one more" individual you are praying for?

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Face-Time with Your Kids

For parents of kindergarten through 5th-grade children:

As you get your child ready for school or on the way to school one day this week, read the verses or share the story and ask the following questions:

1. Jesus talked with the woman at the well and told her about God's love. Why do you think He wanted her to know the truth?
2. Who are some people you see—at school, in your neighborhood, or on your team—that you could tell about Jesus' love?
3. What are some simple ways you can show others what it means to follow Jesus, even without saying a lot of words?

For parents of middle and high-school students, ask your students:

1. What cultural or social barriers existed between Jesus and the Samaritan woman?
2. How does Jesus describe "living water," and why is it different from regular water?
3. Who are the "Samaritans" in your world—people others might judge or avoid?
4. Why do you think Jesus intentionally engaged in a conversation with this woman?
5. How does this story show that Jesus cares about both our physical and spiritual needs?
6. What changes could happen in your school or friend group if you treated everyone the way Jesus did in this story?

2 Ways to Reach Your 1 More

- **Pray** that God gives you opportunities to gently guide a conversation into a deeper spiritual direction.
- **Befriend:** Ask someone a question that makes them consider their spiritual life: How do you include spirituality into your parenting? Do you feel like you've seen God working on any part of your life? Where would you describe your spiritual journey? How do you grow the spiritual part of your life?... (memorize one of these, if it helps).

Week 2 Sermon Notes

[illegible]

Willing to Share What I Have

WEEK 3

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

MATTHEW 14:1-21

¹³ When Jesus heard about it, He withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed Him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, had compassion on them, and healed their sick.

¹⁵ When evening came, the disciples approached Him and said, "This place is deserted, and it is already late. Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ "They don't need to go away," Jesus told them. "You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ "But we only have five loaves and two fish here," they said to Him.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to Me," He said. ¹⁹ Then He commanded the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ Everyone ate and was satisfied. They picked up twelve baskets full of leftover pieces. ²¹ Now those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Follow-Up Questions

1. Have you ever been in a situation where the need seemed overwhelming, and the available resources felt totally insufficient? Briefly share.

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2. In a parallel passage in John 6:9, Andrew says, "There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many?" What do we learn from this boy about neighboring?

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3. What did the disciples likely learn from this experience?

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4. *Willing to Share What I Have* is the main point. What "five loaves and two fish" (limited resources, talents, or time) do you feel God has given you that you could offer to meet a need, even if it feels small?

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5. What's one tangible thing you could commit to sharing this week (beyond money—think time, skills, possessions, hospitality) to demonstrate God's abundance to someone in your path?

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Face-Time with Your Kids

For parents of kindergarten through 5th-grade children:

As you sit down for dinner, read the verses or share the story and ask the following questions:

1. A boy shared his lunch, and Jesus used it to feed everyone. Why do you think sharing is important to God?
2. What is something you have that you could share to help someone else?
3. How can God use small things you give to do something big?

For parents of middle and high-school students, ask your students:

1. Why do you think Jesus still chose to serve and heal the crowd, even while grieving?
2. What does this miracle teach about God's ability to take something small and make it more than enough?
3. Where in your life do you feel like you don't have "enough"—time, energy, resources, confidence? How could you trust Jesus with that area?
4. What's one way you can show compassion to people in need, like Jesus did in this story?
5. How could you start viewing small acts of faith or generosity as opportunities for God to do something greater?

2 Ways to Reach Your 1 More

- **Serve:** Sometimes we can serve and help others with our hands and sometimes with our stuff. What could you give to someone else who is in a time of need?
- **Befriend:** Who could you share a meal with this week? (Perhaps you can even make the food or pick up the check. 😊)

Week 3 Sermon Notes

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Willing to Serve Those Who Seem Unworthy

WEEK 4

WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

JOHN 13:1-17

¹ Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. ² Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Him.

³ Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into His hands, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God. ⁴ So He got up from supper, laid aside His outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. ⁵ Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who asked Him, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand."

⁸ "You will never wash my feet," Peter said. Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me."

⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

¹⁰ "One who has bathed," Jesus told him, "doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you." ¹¹ For He knew who would betray Him. This is why He said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² When Jesus had washed their feet and put on His outer clothing, He reclined again and said to them, "Do you know what I have done for you? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

Follow-Up Questions

1. What is one small task you genuinely dislike doing, even if it's necessary?

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2. In that culture, what was the significance of foot-washing, and why was it typically reserved for the lowest servant? What made Jesus' act so profoundly counter-cultural?

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3. How did Peter's initial reaction ("You will never wash my feet!") reveal his misunderstanding of Jesus' example and the nature of true service?

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4. What is the core lesson Jesus teaches the disciples about leadership and servanthood in verses 14-15? What does it mean for us to "do just as I have done for you"?

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5. Think of a practical, humble act of service you could perform this week for someone in your family, neighborhood, or workplace which might feel inconvenient or go unnoticed, yet embodies this sacrificial spirit.

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Face-Time with Your Kids

For parents of kindergarten through 5th-grade children:

Look for ways to incorporate this into your daily routines and read the verses or share the story and ask these questions:

1. Jesus washed His friends' feet to show love. How do you think they felt when He did that?
2. What are some ways you can help or serve people at home, school, or church?
3. Why do you think helping others is an important way to show God's love?

For parents of middle and high-school students, ask your students:

1. How did the disciples react when Jesus began to wash their feet?
2. What does Jesus say about why He was serving them in this way?
3. How would you describe the difference between serving out of love versus serving out of obligation?
4. What does this story teach us about the connection between love, humility, and action?
5. What "dirty feet" moments in your world—the hard, unglamorous acts of service—could you step into for others?

2 Ways to Reach Your 1 More

- **Serve:** We often spend much of our energy trying to move up all the “ladders” in our life (social, financial, corporate...). Instead of putting your foot on the next rung, how could you show Jesus' love by helping someone else take a step upward, even if it means your taking a step downward?
- **Befriend:** Is there someone in your life who doesn't know Jesus that you could encourage with a text or call this week? (Something as simple as “I was thinking about you today; I hope you have a great day,” can be very meaningful).

Week 4 Sermon Notes

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Willing to Step in for Those Who Are Powerless

WEEK 5

JESUS & THE ADULTERER

JOHN 8:1-11

¹ But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

² At dawn He went to the temple again, and all the people were coming to Him. He sat down and began to teach them.

³ Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center. ⁴ "Teacher," they said to Him, "this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. ⁵ In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do You say?" ⁶ They asked this to trap Him, in order that they might have evidence to accuse Him.

Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with His finger. ⁷ When they persisted in questioning Him, He stood up and said to them, "The one without sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Then He stooped down again and continued writing on the ground. ⁹ When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men. Only He was left, with the woman in the center. ¹⁰ When Jesus stood up, He said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

¹¹ "No one, Lord," she answered.

"Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

Follow-Up Questions

1. Can you recall a time when you witnessed someone stand up for another person who couldn't defend himself/herself? What was the outcome?

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2. What was the true intention of the scribes and Pharisees in bringing the woman caught in adultery to Jesus, and how did their actions demonstrate their power over her?

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3. What is the profound significance of Jesus' dual response to the woman: "Neither do I condemn you," and "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore"? How does this show both grace and truth?

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4. *Willing to Step in for Those Who are Powerless* is the main point. Who are the "powerless" or marginalized individuals or groups in our society, community, or even within our church that we might overlook or who need an advocate?

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5. What's one concrete way our small group or church can specifically advocate for or empower those who are vulnerable, oppressed, or unjustly treated this week?

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Face-Time with Your Kids

For parents of kindergarten through 5th-grade children:

As you think through when to incorporate this into your daily routine with your children, we encourage you to think about the term “adulterer,” and if you feel as though that word would be helpful to your child or cause distraction. You can always replace the word “adultery” with “sin.” Read the verses or share the story and ask these questions:

1. When the crowd wanted to hurt the woman, Jesus stepped in to protect her. How do you think she felt when Jesus helped her?
2. Have you ever seen someone being left out, teased, or treated unfairly? What's one way you could step in to help?
3. Why do you think God wants us to stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves?

For parents of middle and high-school students, ask your students:

1. What happens after Jesus says, “Let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone”?
2. What does Jesus say to the woman at the end of the story?
3. What does this moment teach about judgment, grace, and mercy?
4. How does this story challenge the way we see people who have messed up or made mistakes?
5. What does it show us about how Jesus balances truth (“go and sin no more”) with compassion?
6. What would it look like to stand up for someone who's being criticized, gossiped about, or shamed?
7. Is there an area of your life where you need to accept Jesus' forgiveness and take steps to “go and sin no more”?

2 Ways to Reach Your 1 More

- **Pray:** The Pharisees belittled, shamed, and used this woman to try to get to Jesus. People continue to treat one another this way. Who are some people in your life (perhaps they are in a very different stage of life than you) who are also being belittled or shamed in some way? How can you begin faithfully praying and helping them?
- **Win:** Is there an outreach ministry to those in need that you can jump into? How can you position yourself to meet their needs and share Christ?

Week 5 Sermon Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Willing to See Those Who Are Unseen

WEEK 6

THE LEAST OF THESE

MATTHEW 25:31-46

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels, with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² All the nations, will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ 'For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you took care of Me; I was in prison and you visited Me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or without clothes and clothe You? ³⁹ When did we see You sick, or in prison, and visit You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.'

⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you didn't take Me in; I was naked and you didn't clothe Me, sick and in prison and you didn't take care of Me.'

⁴⁴ "Then they too will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without clothes, or sick, or in prison, and not help You?' ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.' ⁴⁶ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Follow-Up Questions

1. When have you personally felt "unseen" or overlooked in a group or situation, and what impact did that have on you?

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2. Who does Jesus identify as "the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine," and why is it so significant that acts done for them are considered acts done for Him?

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3. What is the contrast in consequences for those who did see and serve "the least of these" versus those who failed to do so? What does this imply about the importance of our actions?

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4. What small, intentional act could you take this week to make someone who feels "unseen" feel truly valued, acknowledged, or cared for?

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5. How is the church presently trying to impact the unseen? What else could it do? How could you help?

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Face-Time with Your Kids

For parents of kindergarten through 5th-grade children:

Find a new way to incorporate this into your daily routine, perhaps as a daily devotional or some other personal time with Jesus. Read the verses or share the story and ask these questions:

1. Jesus said that when we help someone in need, it's like we're helping Him. Why do you think He said that?
2. Can you think of someone at school, church, or in your neighborhood who might feel left out or unseen? How could you show them kindness?
3. What are some ways you can help people who don't have as much as you do?

For parents of middle and high-school students, ask your students:

1. How does Jesus connect serving people with serving Him?
2. Who in your world today might be considered "the least of these"?
3. What do you think it really means to "serve Jesus" in everyday life?
4. What are some small, practical ways you can serve others this week—at school, at home, or in your community?
5. Think of someone you usually overlook or ignore. What could you do to show them love and kindness?

2 Ways to Reach Your 1 More

- **Serve:** If you began to see Jesus' face on those who are hurting and downtrodden in our community, how would you respond to them differently? How can you begin tangibly serving the least of these?
- **Befriend:** Who is someone you could spend time with and help in a practical way who would never be able to reciprocate?

Week 6 Sermon Notes

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Willing to Befriend Those Who Are Lost

WEEK 7

THE TAX COLLECTORS AND SINNERS

LUKE 5:27-32

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, "Follow Me." ²⁸ So, leaving everything behind, he got up and began to follow Him.

²⁹ Then Levi hosted a grand banquet for Him at his house. Now there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining at the table with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to His disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

³¹ Jesus replied to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick.

³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Follow-Up Questions

1. When have you had to step outside your usual social circle or comfort zone to connect with someone very different from yourself?

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2. Why were tax collectors and "sinners" considered outcasts and despised figures in Jewish society during Jesus' time?

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3. What was the Pharisees' and Scribes' primary complaint about Jesus' actions, and how did Jesus' response directly challenge their understanding of righteousness and mission?

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4. What profound truth about His mission does Jesus convey by comparing Himself to a "doctor," and those He came to call, "the sick"?

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5. What "social barriers" or personal discomforts might you need to overcome in order to truly befriend someone who is very different from you or who lives a lifestyle you don't condone?

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Face-Time with Your Kids

For parents of kindergarten through 5th-grade children:

1. Some people didn't like that Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners. Why do you think Jesus chose to be their friend anyway?
2. Is there someone at school, church, or in your neighborhood who doesn't have many friends? How could you show kindness to them?
3. How can being a good friend help someone learn more about God's love?

For parents of middle and high-school students, ask your students:

1. Who came to Levi's house for the banquet, and why were the Pharisees upset?
2. What does Jesus mean when He says, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"?
3. How do you think the Pharisees felt when Jesus spent time with people they thought were "too sinful"?
4. Who in your school, team, or friend group might feel left out or judged? How can you show them the love of Jesus?
5. What does it look like to live out repentance in your everyday life?
6. How can you practice seeing people the way Jesus sees them—with compassion and an invitation to relationship?

2 Ways to Reach Your 1 More

- **Invite:** Research shows that most people would say “yes” to coming to church if someone invited them. Who could you invite to church? Who can you invite next week?
- **Befriend:** Who can you invite into your home this month? Perhaps you can text them right now and get it on the calendar...

Week 7 Sermon Notes

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Willing to Bring My Friends to Jesus

WEEK 8

HEALING THE PARALYTIC

MARK 2:1-12

¹ When He entered Capernaum again after some days, it was reported that He was at home. ² So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and He was speaking the word to them. ³ They came to Him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they were not able to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying. ⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ But some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts: ⁷ "Why does He speak like this? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Right away Jesus perceived in His spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'? ¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He told the paralytic—¹¹ "I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home."

¹² Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Follow-Up Questions

1. Describe a time you went to great lengths or faced significant obstacles to help a friend or loved one achieve something important.

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2. Why did Jesus choose to address the paralytic's sins first ("Son, your sins are forgiven") before his physical ailment? What does this reveal about Jesus' priorities?

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3. What does this story teach us about the power of collective faith, persistence, and proactive steps in bringing others to Christ?

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4. *Willing to Bring My Friends to Jesus* is the main point. Who is a "friend" or acquaintance in your life that you are passionately praying about bringing closer to Jesus?

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5. What "roof" might you need to "dig through" (what obstacles, fears, or inconveniences might you need to overcome) to bring someone you know closer to Jesus this week?

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Face-Time with Your Kids

For parents of kindergarten through 5th-grade children:

Look for ways to incorporate this into your daily routines and read the verses or share the story and ask these questions:

1. The man's friends carried him to Jesus and even lowered him through the roof! Why do you think they tried so hard to help him?
2. What are some ways you can help your friends learn about Jesus or know Him better?
3. Who is one friend you can pray for this week and ask God to help?

For parents of middle and high-school students, ask your students:

1. Why do you think the friends went to such great lengths to get their friend to Jesus?
2. What does this story teach about faith and persistence?
3. What "barriers" keep you from fully trusting Jesus with your problems?
4. How can you take bold steps of faith this week, even if others don't understand?
5. Who in your life could use a friend willing to "carry them" closer to Jesus through prayer, encouragement, or support?

2 Ways to Reach Your 1 More

- **Befriend:** Do you have non-Christian friends in your life? How can you add a few more? Perhaps you could pick a new hobby or activity that would help you meet more people.
- **Win:** How can you bring your friend to Jesus? Pick a person and an obstacle to overcome. Maybe a busy schedule, distance, or differing preference has created a gap between you and someone in your life who needs Jesus. How can you remove that obstacle?

Week 8 Sermon Notes

[illegible]

Willing to Reach My One More

WEEK 9

THE 99 AND THE 1

LUKE 15:1-10

¹ All the tax collectors and sinners were approaching to listen to Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So He told them this parable: ⁴ "What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, ⁶ and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!' ⁷ I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don't need repentance."

⁸ "Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!' ¹⁰ I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents

Follow-Up Questions

1. Describe a time you lost something truly valuable (not necessarily monetary) and the joy you felt when you finally found it.

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2. What is the central, shared message conveyed through both the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin?

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3. What does it mean for God (and by extension, for us as His followers) to "leave the ninety-nine" to pursue the one lost? How does this challenge conventional wisdom?

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4. *Willing to Reach My One More* is the main point. Who is your "one more"—that specific person God has laid on your heart whom you are praying for, serving, inviting, befriending, and winning to Christ?

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5. How can our small group hold each other accountable, offer support, and celebrate successes in our individual and collective "unrelenting pursuit" of the lost?

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Face-Time with Your Kids

For parents of kindergarten through 5th-grade children:

As you have incorporated this into your daily routine for 8 weeks, continue to reinforce the routine with this final week. Read the verses or share the story and ask these questions.

1. In the story, the shepherd left 99 sheep to find the 1 that was lost. Why do you think that one sheep was so important to him?
2. Have you ever lost something important to you? How did you feel when you found it again?
3. What is one way you can show God's love to someone who doesn't know Him yet?

For parents of middle and high-school students, ask your students:

1. How do both parables describe what happens when what was lost is found?
2. What do these parables reveal about God's heart for people who are far from Him?
3. How do these parables challenge the way we sometimes view people who don't follow Jesus yet?
4. Have you ever felt "lost" in your faith? How did God lead you back?
5. What is one way you can reflect God's heart for the "lost" at your school or in your community this week?
6. How can you celebrate and support someone who takes steps toward Jesus, even if they aren't there yet?

2 Ways to Reach Your 1 More

- **Befriend:** Christians often live in a circle or bubble with only other Christians. Jesus is willing to leave the 99 to find the 1. Who is the 1 that you need to pursue?
- **Win:** You likely have several non-Christians in your life who know you are a Christian. Are you ready to have a spiritual conversation with them? In a gentle and caring way, when will you set aside time with them and have a conversation about their spiritual journey?

Week 9 Sermon Notes

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