



For the One
Weekly Devotionals | April 26

Welcome to Week 3 of our For the One series! Up to this point, we have focused both on *seeing* and *pursuing* the people God places in our path. This week, we're unpacking one more layer: the nature of serving others. In Luke 10, Jesus tells his famous parable of the good Samaritan. This is the story about the hurting man on the side of the road whom everyone except the Samaritan passed by. What this story shows us is that being missional is more than evangelizing the lost, it's about loving our neighbor like Jesus did. Being missional means living a life of sacrificial service.

Our question this final week is simple: Will we model our lives after our Savior's?

Read & Reflect on the Scripture

Read **Luke 10:25-37**. When finished, spend some time in reflection utilizing the questions below.

- The priest and Levite were religious, respectable men. Despite this, they're the ones who pass by the man in need of help. What might their reasoning have been? In what ways do you find similar reasons in yourself to not stop and help someone in need, even despite good intentions or a busy schedule?
- What sacrifices did the Samaritan make to help the man in need?
- The Samaritan in this story crosses ethnic, cultural, and social lines to help someone who likely would have, in normal circumstances, despised him. What barriers (think social, cultural, emotional, or logistical) does sacrificial service require us to cross in our own context?



- Jesus doesn't describe the Samaritan as feeling sorry for the man. Instead, Jesus points out that he "had compassion" (see verse 33). It's from this place of compassion that he acts. What is the difference between "feeling sorry" and having "compassion?" What is the relationship between compassion and action in your own life? Do you ever struggle with compassion? What makes it hard? Explain.
- At the end of this story, Jesus asks, "Who was a neighbor to him?" (see verse 36). What's the significance of that question? What importance does it have for you in your life today? How does it reframe who we're responsible for as Christians?

Mindset Shift

Just as Week 1 invited us to see the people around us as God sees them and Week 2 took us further into the idea that God is actively pursuing people, Week 3 takes us one step further. The truth is this: Service isn't just a good habit or a spiritual discipline we practice until it feels natural or we do when it's convenient. *Service is shaped by the gospel itself.*

Consider what God did in Christ: He who was rich became poor (2 Corinthians 8:9). He who was in the form of God took on the form of a servant (Philippians 2:6-7). Christ did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45)!

Reflect on the following:

1. In what area of your life is God calling you to, like Jesus, "become poor" (via your time, money, energy, resources, etc.) by serving someone else? What makes this hard?



2. How does knowing that you are also broken and in need of grace change how you serve others? Does it make you more humble? More compassionate? Explain.
3. Where do you feel the cost of service most (e.g. your time, your comfort, your reputation, your emotional energy)? What would it look like to offer that as a “spiritual sacrifice” (see 1 Peter 2:5)?

Case Study

Meet Renee. Renee is a woman in her late 50s who has been part of her church for decades. She’s raised her kids, served in various ministries, and considers herself a faithful but fairly private believer. She’s not an evangelist. She’s not a counselor. She’s a retired teacher with a lot of time, a small house, and with a tendency to keep to herself.

Her next-door neighbor is a stay-at-home mother named Mehar. Through brief interactions, Renee has learned actually quite a bit about Mehar: She is Sikh. She has three kids under ten. Her husband works long hours. They’re not originally from Indiana. And more. Renee and Mehar have exchanged pleasantries for months now, but nothing more. Renee has told herself, “She seems fine. Her life looks in order. I don’t want to intrude.”

One day, it dawned on Renee that perhaps, with her husband’s work schedule, maybe Mehar gets lonely. Yes, the kids are around. But her husband works a lot and often out of town for work. She also probably gets quite tired. At this moment, Renee felt a “nudge” to do something. She was a little scared at first. “What can I really do here?” she thought. “It’s hard to even chat with the language barrier!” Despite her trepidation, and desiring to show God’s love to Mehar, Renee prays and asks God for courage: She is going to offer to make lunch for Mehar and her family.



When Renee asked Mehar if she could make their family lunch, at first, Mehar objected, not wanting to impose on Renee. But with God’s help, Renee insisted! Finally, Mehar relented and allowed her. The next day, Renee had everything prepared – sandwiches, soup, salad, finger snacks, drinks, and more. She brought it over for lunch and, intending to just drop everything off, was quite surprised when Mehar invited her to stay!

Over that lunch period, Renee got to hear Mehar’s story and how hard it has been since moving to Indiana. At the end of their time, Renee asked if she could pray over Mehar and her kids. Mehar, to Renee’s surprise, said, “Yes.”

Reflect: How did Renee embody the God’s sacrificial love in this story? What fears or barriers did she have to push through? How did her service open a door for her to bring God into the picture - without forcing it?

Weekly Challenge & Planning

Like last week, this week we have two challenges for you:

CHALLENGE 1: Identify one person in your immediate world (e.g. a neighbor, coworker, family member) who is in the ditch right now. Do one concrete act of service for them this week.

CHALLENGE 2: Pray for courage. The same God who walked with His people through the Old Testament is the same God who walks with us today. We have the Holy Spirit, not a spirit of fear! Ask God to help you as you seek to see, seek, and serve the one God has placed in your path!

Begin planning for your upcoming group time using the following questions:

- Who is the “one” in front of you right now who needs served?
- What is it costing you to serve them? What would it look like to offer that cost as a “spiritual sacrifice?”



- How might your act of service open a natural door for spiritual conversation?

End in prayer

Close your time by praying for the specific people God has laid on your heart.