



## For the One Group Guide | April 26

Open with prayer, the series description, and a question (15 minutes).

Begin your time together as a group with a word of prayer. Thank God for this space to learn, share, and grow!

Read the following series description for your group. Then, ask the question below:

- **SERIES DESCRIPTION:** Welcome to Week 3 of our For the One series content! Our goal in this series is to cultivate awareness of the people God places in our path, to recognize every person as made in God's image (imago Dei), and to believe that God desires relationship with **all** people! This week, we're exploring how Jesus teaches us about the importance of "serving the one" through the story of the Good Samaritan!
- **QUESTION(S):** How would you rate your heart for serving people on a scale of 1-10? Explain the number you chose.
  - After asking this initial question, follow it up by asking how the number might change if the "serving" is for family vs. for friends vs. for acquaintances vs. for strangers.
  - After people share their numbers, have them explain why the numbers are either the same or different.

**READ Luke 10:25-37 and then discuss the sermon (30 minutes).**

*You may not get through all these questions. That's okay! Use the questions you think will be most beneficial for your group.*

- What resonates with you or challenges you most about the Good Samaritan story?



- What is Jesus' point in telling this story?
- What resonated with you or challenged you most from Sunday's sermon?
- In his sermon, Emerson mentioned that the Good Samaritan forces us to ask ourselves whether we have the right gospel. When have you seen how someone's view of the gospel impact their desire or lack thereof to serve?
- How might a fuller view of the gospel propel someone to serve? Does a fuller view of God's salvation and love for everyone challenge your service in any way?
- Notice the posture of the Good Samaritan. He shows compassion without reservation. When it comes to serving, how would you describe your usual posture? Explain.
  - Is your answer what you'd like for it to be? Explain.
  - The lawyer's question to Jesus was "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus' question back to the lawyer was "Who was the neighbor?" Although similar, what is the difference between these two questions?
  - How might living into the question "Am I BEING a neighbor?" lead you into ever greater depths of service for the people in life that you encounter?

### **Mindset Shift (15 minutes)**

*Split into smaller groups to discuss the following. When finished, move on to the case study.*

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:

- 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?
- 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.
- 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 (20 minutes)

Utilize the following case study in the smaller groups to prompt good discussion on evangelism and mission. Then, have the smaller groups reflect as a on the questions below. Once finished, come back as a large group and discuss what your smaller groups talked about.

*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's 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?



Once finished, come back as a large group to go through the same questions and hear how people thought through Marcus's story.

### Weekly Challenge & Planning (5 Minutes)

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!

**Finish with prayer requests and prayer (5 minutes).**

As you end your group time, spend time sharing prayer requests and praying for those in need.