

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

We Are the Church - Week 5



CONNECT

Spend some time checking in. What are highs and lows since you last met? How can your group members pray for and support each other this week?

GROW

- When someone asks, "What do you do?" How do you answer? With your career, your family, or something else? How would you answer, "What do you want to be known for?"
- What do you think the church is often known for? Have you had encounters with people who had negative church experiences?
- Read the Bible stories on the back.
- When have you experienced times where you felt like the man on the side of the road -- beaten and bruised? Have you been a recipient of compassion like the Samaritan exhibited?
- What would it look like for the church to be for those who are not here as much as those who are here? How could we balance tending for the insiders as much as outsiders? Why is that a challenge sometimes?

PRAY

God of grace, through love and compassion, you taught us how to be the church. Show us how to lead all people to faith in you, that all may know your love, your light and your peace. Amen.



BIBLE READINGS

LUKE 10:25-37

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” 27 He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” 28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ 36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” 37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

ROMANS 8:31-32

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

