

August 30, 2026



CHECKPOINTS



Following Jesus: More Than A Checklist

“Invite”

Luke 10:30-37 (NLT)

³⁰Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. ³¹“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. ³²A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. ³³“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’ ³⁶“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. ³⁷The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

Sermon Summary:

Some of us grew up with a version of faith that looked a lot like a checklist. Go to church—check. Try to be a good person—check. Pray when life gets hard—check. Over time, without even realizing it, following Jesus can begin to feel like just another box to check in an already busy life. But Jesus never invited anyone into that kind of relationship. He didn’t say, “Fit Me in when it’s convenient.” He didn’t say, “Add Me to your list.” In Luke 9:23, Jesus said, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Following Jesus isn’t about completing a religious checklist; it’s about walking with Him every day.

Checkpoints aren’t boxes to earn God’s approval—they’re markers that help us evaluate whether we’re actually growing as followers of Jesus. They remind us to keep moving in the right direction, taking intentional steps toward becoming more like Christ.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. Tell about a time when a stranger unexpectedly helped you.
2. Who is someone you've known that consistently puts the needs of others before their own?
3. Have you ever stopped to help someone on the side of the road or in an unexpected situation? What happened?
4. What's one act of kindness someone showed you that you've never forgotten?
5. When you're busy, what usually tempts you to overlook the needs of others?

Objective Questions:

1. What question did the expert in religious law ask Jesus?
2. How did Jesus respond to the expert's question?



CHECKPOINTS



3. According to the Law, what are the two greatest commandments?
4. What second question did the expert ask Jesus?
5. What happened to the man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho?
6. Which two people passed by the injured man without helping him?
7. Who stopped to help the injured man?
8. What specific actions did the Samaritan take to care for the man?
9. What arrangements did the Samaritan make before continuing his journey?
10. What final command did Jesus give the expert in religious law?

Interpretive Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus made a Samaritan—the least likely person—the hero of the story?
2. What might have kept the priest and the Levite from helping the injured man?
3. How does the Samaritan's response demonstrate genuine compassion?
4. Why did Jesus change the question from "Who is my neighbor?" to "Which of these was a neighbor?"
5. What does this parable teach us about the relationship between loving God and loving people?

Application Questions:

1. The Checkpoint this week is Serve: Choosing compassionate action over personal convenience. When is it hardest for you to put someone else's needs ahead of your own?
2. Who is someone in your life right now that God may be calling you to serve in a practical way?
3. Which of the three travelers do you most identify with today—the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan? Why?
4. What excuses or inconveniences most often keep you from serving others?
5. What is one specific act of compassion you can intentionally do this week to reflect the love of Jesus?