

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 6: Suffering People Are Worth Fighting For

SERIES OVERVIEW

Our 7 convictions are Biblical and reveal the heart of who we are and what we do as a church. These convictions will shape and define our culture as we strive to accomplish our mission.

CONTEXT

In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus shares the Parable of the Good Samaritan in response to a lawyer's question about inheriting eternal life. The parable teaches us about loving our neighbors by exemplifying how a Samaritan helps a wounded man, emphasizing that compassion and mercy should transcend social and cultural boundaries.

THE BIG IDEA

Suffering People Are Worth Fighting For!

We believe our God is a God of compassion. Throughout the Gospels, we see proof of this in Jesus, who did for others what they could not do for themselves (Matt. 9:36, Mark 1:41, Luke 7:13). Therefore, we will be a people of compassion, defending and suffering with the hurting, harassed, and helpless. We will feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, invite in the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner, and care for the sick (Matt. 25:35-36). We will do justice, love kindness, and fight for those who have no voice.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:25-37

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27 And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." 29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"

ICE BREAKER

Share a time when you helped someone or someone helped you when your life was like the man in the ditch. How did God use this to soften your heart for suffering people?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read THE BIG IDEA on page 1 above.
How have you seen our church live out this conviction? (Think about All To Him)

Read Luke 10:25-37 as a group.

In your past and before hearing the sermon, what role did you think you played in this parable? What person, if any, represented Jesus? Who did the priest and Levite represent in this parable?

After hearing and digesting the sermon, who are we and who is Jesus in the story? What's the difference in your answers from before and after the sermon?

How does this parable reflect the Gospel?

As you reflect on your own salvation story, what did your "ditch" look like and share how Jesus saw you, had compassion on you and saved your life?

What part of Maureen's story impacted you the most and why?

What is your next step in living out our conviction; Suffering People Are Worth Fighting For?

How would our world be different if we stopped trying to figure out who is our "neighbor" and we focussed on being a "neighbor"?

Discussion continued.

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

Pray that God would give you the right motives and opportunities to show compassion. *God, may we show compassion to our neighbor because it's what you did for us. Jesus, thank you that when we were in the ditch, you got us out and brought us from death to life.*



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