

Who is my neighbor

Ice Breaker:

Let's say you go to Disney world, you're out of state and someone asks you where you are from, what do you say?

How do you define the word neighbor?

Is it possible that we have narrowed what a term means? (Meaning: Do you believe that at one point the term neighbor was inclusive of a relationship beyond two people who share a street address?)

Discussion:

Read Luke 10:25-37 together.

1. Who has heard this story before? What is the story called?
2. In verse 25 what is the man asking Jesus about and what could we guess is his profession?
3. How does Jesus initially respond (think just verses 26-28)
4. What is the question that sends Jesus into the parable?
5. What is Jesus demonstrating in the story of the "Good Samaritan"?
6. What are all the things the Samaritan did for the traveler?

We found of 10 things from verse 33-35. (Some you can infer.)

7. What are the things the two travelers had in common?

If you look at the map we see that Jerusalem is technically in Israel territory.

At this point in time Judea is under separate governing as is Samaria. It is highly likely that the two travelers are different nationalities, upbringings, religious belief and convictions are different, even way of travel might be different.

8. At the point of the two travelers meeting if one is going from Jerusalem to Jericho in Judea and one is coming from Samaria to ultimately land in either Judea or further, who has traveled further and who is most out of their own land?

9. So what makes the Samaritan the Jewish man's neighbor?

Consider this:

At the time of this account, the Pharisees had restrained the meaning of the word "neighbor" to those of their own nation, or to their own friends; holding, that to hate their enemy was not forbidden by the law (Matthew 5:43). But our Savior informed them that the whole world was neighbors. In fact, in Webster's dictionary it's 2nd term for neighbor is just "fellow man". Additionally, in Webster's unabridged definition they have 7 terms and uses for neighbor. Some being: (n.) "One who is near in sympathy or confidence", "One entitled to, or exhibiting, neighborly kindness; hence, one of the human race; a fellow being" and "to associate intimately with".

Application:

Romans 13:8-10 & Matthew 22:37-40.

10. How do we fulfill the law? Are we worried about fulfilling a 'law' anymore?
11. What would be the mark of someone who really loves Jesus? Why do you think that?
12. How can we make the people of West Dallas our neighbors?
13. How can YOU personally love your neighbors?
14. Who are you not seeing or missing as my neighbor?

