

# Who's Your Neighbor?



## MAIN POINT

Jesus calls us to love across boundaries, not just within comfort zones.

## MAIN BIBLE VERSE

Luke 10:25-37 NIV

Students will wrestle with who they subconsciously exclude, be challenged to cross relational lines, and be invited to practically act on it by bringing someone with them to the dodgeball tournament.

## Teaching Script / Guide

### HOOK:

- If we're honest, we all have categories.
  - People we gravitate toward.
  - People we tolerate.
  - People we avoid.
- We don't say it out loud.
  - But we quietly decide who counts.
- Today, we're going to dive into a story from Luke 10.
  - When an expert in the law asks Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?", his goal is to define limits.
- Jesus refuses to give him limits. Instead, He challenges him to open his heart even wider.

### SCRIPTURE:

- Read and walk through Luke 10:25-37
  - Notice, the man's question changes... it goes from "What do I have to do?" to "Who am I allowed to exclude?" Because loving EVERYONE in the same way you love yourself is hard. Let's give this guy credit... he knew Jesus was making a big asks... but even then, Jesus raises the stakes even more with this parable.
  - This story isn't about random kindness... It's about intentionally crossing boundaries in the name of love.
    - Jesus' story asks this question:
      - The Samaritan stopped and showed love... are we willing to do the same thing?
    - Earlier, I mentioned 3 categories of people:
      - Those we gravitate towards
      - Those we tolerate
      - Those we avoid.
    - Jesus doesn't have these categories. He only gives us one: Neighbor.
      - And with that comes a command: Love them.

### TENSION:

- We don't usually reject Jesus' command to love.
  - We just limit it.
- We love people who:
  - Think like us

- Vote like us
- Dress like us
- Sit at our table
- But loving someone outside your circle?  
That costs something.
  - It might cost comfort.
  - It might cost reputation.
  - It might feel awkward.
- But here's the key: The Samaritan didn't wait for the injured man to move toward him. He moved first.

#### DODGEBALL INVITATION:

- Lean in here.
  - This week, we're hosting a dodgeball tournament. It's going to be loud. Competitive. Fun. But it's more than just dodgeball. It's an opportunity.
- Because some people in your life would never step into a church service...
  - But they might step into a gym.
- Some people aren't ready for a sermon.
  - But they're ready for friendship.
- Being a neighbor might look like:
  - Crossing the hallway.
  - Crossing a lunch table.
  - Crossing a group chat.
- And simply saying:
  - "Hey — you should come with me."
    - You don't have to preach.
    - You don't have to argue.
    - You don't have to have all the answers.
    - Just invite.
- The Samaritan crossed the road.
  - Maybe for you, it's crossing the gym.
  - Love moves first.

#### APPLICATION:

- Ask students:
  - Who is outside your normal circle?
  - Who would never expect you to invite them?
  - Who feels spiritually far from God?

#### Practical step this week:

1. Pray for one person.
2. Invite them to dodgeball.
3. Trust God with the rest.

You're not responsible for saving anyone.  
But you are responsible for loving them.

#### LAND THE POINT:

- The religious leaders walked past.
  - The Samaritan crossed over.
  - This week, you have a choice.
  - Will you stay comfortable?
  - Or will you move toward someone who doesn't expect it?
  - Love crosses lines.
  - And sometimes... it starts with an invitation.
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