

**Living the Kingdom Life
Who Is my Neighbor
Study Guide**

I am learning from Jesus to live my life as he would live my life if he were me. I am learning how to do everything I do in the manner that he did all that he did. - Dallas Willard

- Read Hebrews 10:25 and Acts 2:43-47 and ponder or discuss the importance of community. How do we see in God's very nature the importance of unity and communion?
- By the time of Jesus' ministry, the phrase "love your neighbor" had multiple interpretations and meanings. The last word of the verse in Leviticus 19:18 is the Hebrew word "kamokha" and it means, "as/like yourself." The lawyer asking Jesus the question would have placed the focus on family or companionship, but Jesus takes this to another level, interpreting it as ***"Love your neighbor who is similar to yourself."*** Read Romans 3:23 and ponder or discuss how we view others in light of our own sinful condition. How easy is it to look at the faults of others in comparison to our own faults and failures?
- Read Leviticus 19:33-34 and ponder or discuss why Jesus interpreted the law that way that he did. Also read Matthew 6:9-14 and ponder or discuss why it is important to forgive others.
- ***It's easy to love someone who has treated you rightly, but forgiving someone who has wronged you is one of the strongest tests of love.***

Read Luke 10:30-37 and discuss who the neighbor is in this story. Is it the man beaten and left for dead, or is it the Samaritan? Why was it important for this Jewish expert of the law to hear this story? What is the significance of the Samaritan being the one who stopped to help?

In Luke 10:37, Jesus said to those listening, "Now go and do the same." In light of this story, ask yourself and answer the question: "Who is my neighbor?" In closing, read and ponder or discuss the passage below.

Matthew 5:43-48 NLT

You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. 48 But you are to be perfect (mature), even as your Father in heaven is perfect (brought to its end).