BIG IDEA: Being a good neighbor requires action. This week, we will look at what it means to be a good neighbor and talk through ways we can put words into action.

GETTING STARTED
(Use this question to get your group discussion started.)

What is the nicest thing a neighbor has done for you? How did their kindness impact your relationship with them?

GOING DEEPER
(Reading, understanding and applying God’s Word to your life.)

Read Luke 10:25-29

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?” The man answered, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!” The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

- Why does Jesus say that if the man kept the commandments he would have eternal life?

- In Luke 10:25-29, Jesus makes a very emphatic statement. Jesus was not using hyperbole; he really meant it! What does it really mean to love God this way? What does it look like in application?
Rate yourself on a scale of 1 -10 based on how you are doing with verse 10:27. What can you do to improve in this area?

Read Luke 10:30-37

Jesus 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. “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. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going 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. The 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.’ “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

- How does Jesus define "neighbor"?

- What do you notice about how the Samaritan treated the injured traveler?

- Jesus does not waste words. Everything he spoke had significance. What is Jesus trying to teach us about the level we are to involve ourselves in ministering to others?

- We could literally give away all we have and still not meet all of the needs we encounter. Where should we draw the line? How do we set appropriate boundaries?

Read Luke 16:13-15

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. Then he said to them, “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God.”

• What do you think Jesus is referring to in the second sentence of verse 16:15?

• What stops you from being the type of neighbor that the Samaritan was? It is easy to avoid coming across someone in need. Do you ever find yourself living in a cocoon and avoiding the types of opportunities Jesus described in the above parable? If so, why? If not, how have you transcended living that way?

NOW WHAT?
(This week’s personal challenge.)

Greg challenged us to be the ambassadors that God has called us to be. We must take the time to genuinely know our neighbors, pray for our neighbors, care for our neighbors, and hang out with our neighbors. Reach out in a greater way this week by utilizing the opportunities provided by GCC.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to always remember to put you first, others second and ourselves last. May we never hesitate to be your hands and feet to a neighbor in need. Lord, bring to our attention those we should be praying for and actively serving in Jesus’ name. Amen.