

07-10-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“The parable of the Good Samaritan is a story for travelers on the road, a scriptural GPS, routing us in the only direction God desires—the way of love and compassion for others.”

- James A. Walker



Luke 10:25-37

Questions for Reflection —

- Whom do you consider to be your neighbors? How well do you know them? Who are the neighbors of our congregation? How can we get to better know them? How might God be calling each of us individually and all of us as a congregation to expand our definition of who our neighbors are? What barriers keep that from happening? What will help remove those barriers?

- In what ways do you limit the scope of your care for and compassion towards others? Towards what persons is it challenging for you to show Christian love? What will help you see those people through God's eyes? How can you go about making connections and building relationships with those people? What might a meaningful interaction with them look like?

- Where do you see brokenness or need in the lives of those around you? What situations of woundedness, suffering, or injustice do you see? What excuses or justifications do you use to avoid intervening? What busyness or distraction keeps you from taking action? What do you need in order to be willing to go beyond your comfort level in order to offer care and compassion, to be an advocate and ally?

Daily Household Prayer

God of love, you have taught us that loving you and our neighbor is the path to inherit eternal life. You have shown us that anyone in need is our neighbor and have taught us that whoever responds with compassion to another is following your will. We confess that we often hide behind our work and play, schools and jobs, fun and fashion. We let ourselves get so busy that we forget the cause of the poor and the suffering. We allow the powers of this world to seduce us into selfishness and silence our witness. In your mercy, forgive us; teach us to champion justice for all; strengthen us to love our neighbor; and speak truth no matter the cost. Empower us to stand up for what is right, true, and good. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.