



Christmas at The Cove

WEEK THREE: WHO'S YOUR NEIGHBOR – Study Guide

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December 9, 2012

Many of you may have seen the picture that went viral of a NYPD officer helping out a homeless man on a cold night in New York City. While the people around the homeless man were mocking and making fun of him, the police officer had compassion and decided to be the solution by buying the homeless man a pair of warm boots. The officer decided to make a difference in the man's life for that day. In the Message Series Study Guide this week, we will see how the Gospel not only calls Jesus-followers to proclaim the message of Jesus, but it also calls for us to act out what we believe by caring for others.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) A word can bring a certain picture to your mind. For example in our American culture, when you hear someone say the word "neighbor", what meaning, or word picture, does that bring to your mind?

Into the Bible

- 2) **Read Luke 10:25-37.** What did the lawyer intend to prove by asking Jesus who his neighbor was? By telling this story, who does Jesus say the lawyer's neighbor is?

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3) What were some ways that the Samaritan displayed what loving your neighbor means?

4) **Read 1 John 4:7-18.** God loving us cost Him someone—His Son. In the same way, loving others almost always costs us something as well. According to John, what makes it even possible for us to love others? How can others know that God loves them?

5) **Read Romans 13:8-10.** As Jesus-followers, love is the one thing we owe to people. Why do you think the law can be summed up in the words, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"?

How Does This Apply?

6) When we look back at the story of the Good Samaritan, why is it so easy for us to look the other way, just like the priest and Levite did, when we see a need arise?

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- 7) One of our values at The Cove is that "We love people unconditionally." People matter to us because they matter to God. What does it look like to love a person unconditionally?

- 8) We are called to do more than talk about loving our neighbor. As a Jesus-follower, we are called to put our love into action. How have you personally been able to physically care for someone and show God's love to them?

- 9) As a Life Group, how do you, especially during this Christmas season, follow Jesus' command to "Go and do likewise"?

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

We talked a lot about going out and doing, but let's remember that works are not the foundation for our faith, or what saves us. Let's look at a few verses to help us better understand this.

- 10) **Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and 1 Peter 2:21.** What do these verses tell us about our salvation? What are we called to do as Jesus-followers?

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- 11) To better understand Jesus' example of loving the people around us, let's take a look at some of the ways He did that. **Read Matthew 14:14, Matthew 20:34 and Mark 6:33-34.** What's the common denominator that caused Jesus to care for a person?
- 12) You may not be able to heal people like Jesus did in these circumstances, but we can feel what He felt. Have you ever felt the type of compassion Jesus felt in these instances?