



## #1 Reconciling The Races

### **The Good Samaritan:**

<sup>5</sup> And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" <sup>27</sup> And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." <sup>29</sup> But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> And the next day he took out two denarii<sup>[c]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" <sup>37</sup> He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

### **One Simple Act:**

- Instead Of Walking Away, He Walked ACROSS The Street.

*"I imagine that the first question the priest and Levite asked was 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But by the very nature of his concern, the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'" ~ Dr. Martin Luther King~*

- Racism Is Not A SKIN Issue, Racism Is A SIN Issue

"But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors." James 2:9

### **How Do We Neighbor?**

#### #1. Recognize Your PREJUDICE

*"Prejudice is a preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience."*

#### #2. Seek To UNDERSTAND Others

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatian 3:28

#### #3. Love Those Who Are DIFFERENT From Us

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:12-13

*"The biggest thing you can do is just be kind to another human being. It can come down to eye contact or a smile. It doesn't have to be a huge monumental act." ~Keisha Thomas~*

# Life Group Discussion Questions

We believe that spiritual growth happens best in circles. Life groups provide a safe and encouraging environment to experience authentic Christian community, to practically love one another, and discover the life-giving truth of God's Word

## Start Talking

- Do you remember the first time you realized people were different colors? What happened?
- Have you ever experienced any kind of racism? How did you handle it?
- Read James 2:9. How have you and your culture favored some people over others?
- Discuss the statement that racism is a sin issue, not a skin issue. Why do you think racism is at odds with God's ways?
- If there is no racism gene, where does it come from? How do you combat it?
- What are some prejudices (racial or otherwise) you've recognized in yourself? What will you do with them?
- Share an experience that helped you understand things from the perspective of another race.
- Racism isn't just what we do—sometimes it's what we don't do. Are you withholding from people who are different from you? What would it look like to do the opposite?
- The Good Samaritan had to cross a literal street and a racial divide to love his neighbor. What barriers will you cross?

## Start Digging

Read Romans 10:12; Colossians 3:11; Acts 10:34-35; John 13:34-35.

## Start Praying

God, will You break down the racial and social walls we've put up? Holy Spirit, reveal in our hearts any prejudice You want out. Give us the strength to love as You first loved us. Amen.

## Start Doing

Commit to a step, and live it out this week. How will you love your neighbor? Reconcile a relationship? invite someone to dinner? Start a conversation?

Source: Courtesy of Life Church Open Resource – Pastor Craig Groeschel

<https://www.life.church/>

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