

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Dare - Part 1 Choosing to Care

MARK PURSER

Introduction

This week we look at Jesus' teaching in Luke 10. A lawyer asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus says the most important things are to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and to love your neighbour as yourself. Jesus then tells of a man who is beaten and left for dead. A priest and a Levite see him but do not help, yet a Samaritan stops and extends care. It is an ongoing care; the Samaritan commits time and resources to help the man recover. Jesus uses this story to ask us if we are ready to help others, even when we are busy or afraid. As we look at the parable, let's consider how we can create a caring community by daring to help and support our neighbours.

Read: Luke 10:25-37

Discuss

1. How would you define 'neighbour' in today's context (Luke 10:29)? Who is your neighbour?
2. Why do you think the priest and the Levite chose to pass by the injured man (Luke 10:31-32)?
3. Are you usually open to being interrupted to help someone in need? Why or why not?
4. What are some common reasons people avoid helping others, and how can we overcome these barriers (e.g. busyness, fear, selfishness)?
5. What might it cost us (time, money, comfort, emotional energy) to care for others; what are our struggles and challenges (Luke 10:35)?
6. Share a time when you either helped someone in need or were helped by someone? How did it impact you? What did you learn from the experience?

(continued on next page)

7. How can we, as a Life Group and church community, foster a culture of care and support for each other?

Respond

Life is full of opportunities to care and there are people around us who are in need. As a Life Group, take time now in pairs to pray that God would help us recommit ourselves to the virtues of care and mercy. Think of one thing we can do this week to show God's love to someone else, and commit to doing it.