



**Growth Group Questions**  
**May 17, 2026**  
**“Unexpected Kindness”**

**CONTEXT**

The author of the Gospel of Luke is a coworker of the Apostle Paul who writes down an orderly account of both before the resurrection and after. Luke and the book of Acts are one continuous story that our Bible separates with the Gospel of John.

Jesus tells the story about the “Good Samaritan” in the tenth chapter of Luke. We find Him on a journey to Jerusalem where He sends out 70 disciples ahead of Him to prepare the way and to participate in the mission of calling people back to God. Jesus is responding to the question, who is my neighbor?

In this famous story, a Jewish man is beaten and left for dead. Jesus then describes three characters that have a chance to respond. The first is a priest. Choosing this character was very intentional by Jesus. There were many laws that protected people from ritual impurities to protect God’s people. Through this story, Jesus illustrates the imperative to look at the original purpose of those laws and with an exaggerated level, the religious don’t stop to help those in need.

The second character is the Levite. The Levite represents the religious elite who, while technically following purity laws, fail to fulfill the spirit of the law, which demands love for their neighbor. Jesus illustrates that maybe they think a priest has too much status to help, but what about the people who work for the Temple? The answer is that there were also rules for them to not help someone in need.

The third character is the Samaritan. Division has settled on these people because they were not purely Jewish. As a result, they followed only the first five books of the Bible, but did not come to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer their sacrifices and celebrate festivals. Instead, they made their own Temple at Mount Gerizim, located halfway between Jerusalem and Nazareth. The Samaritans were not accepted as Jewish by the elite perspective of the Israelites, and yet Jesus was very familiar with them as He passed by them from His home town of Nazareth as he travelled to Jerusalem.



Jesus intentionally chooses these three characters to make a point about the purpose of the laws and how isolated the religious leaders had become. They were not even able to help someone on the side of the road who was not only in need, but a true Jewish man. The Samaritan overcame this and showed mercy and kindness.

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **Galatians 5:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ<sup>[a]</sup> have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

### **Galatians 1:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

### **Luke 10:25-37**

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.<sup>[a]</sup> “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> 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 given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, 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 while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

## **QUESTIONS**

1. How do you define kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit?
2. Pastor Sheri said that kindness crosses boundaries and that kindness costs us something so others can flourish. How have you seen these two characteristics of kindness play out in your life?
3. Share an experience where you gave, witnessed, or received unexpected kindness. What did you learn from that experience?
4. What attitudes toward the man who was beaten do you see expressed in the actions of the Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan in the parable of The Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:25-37?



5. What are some of the things or circumstances that can keep us from showing kindness to others?
6. The parable of The Good Samaritan is clearly a story about kindness. What other Biblical stories or Biblical characters demonstrate the kindness God means for us to show to others?
7. What Bible verse(s) speak to you about kindness?
8. How can we become kinder people?

