Sermon-Based Small Group Leader Guide

For the week of October 19, 2014 **"What's Good for the 'Hood'"** Sermon Series: *Who Is My Neighbor*? (week 3 of 3) Luke 10:1–7, 16

Getting Started

10 minutes

1) What is your favorite holiday? What makes it such a special occasion?

Key Concept

Jesus' emphasis on loving our neighbors serves as our commission to get out of the house, meet, and care for others.

Into the Bible

20 minutes

2) This week's sermon was the third in a series on loving God and loving others as ourselves. Have you gained any new insights or been challenged by some of the things Pastor Harrington said in this series?

Read Matt 28:18b-20 (Scriptures are printed in the Additional Resource)

3) Star During the sermon, we considered how the disciples might have felt at hearing these words, what we call the Great Commission. What is your emotional response to Jesus' command?

Leader Note: Depending upon personality types, some people may read these words and feel honored to play a pivotal role in God's strategy for kingdom work; others may feel energized by the challenge; and others, still, may approach this Commission fearfully due to the risk involved or the possible rejection by others. SSS What does "go and make disciples of all nations" mean within your own context?
Follow-up Question: How does Jesus' directive impact the way you understand your role in ministry?

Read Luke 10:1–7 (Additional Resource)

5) Why did Jesus send out seventy-two more from his group of followers? Alternately worded: What was the message he wanted them to deliver, what were they empowered to do, what was their response upon returning (v. 17)?

Digging Deeper

40 minutes

 6) SSS What are some responses you can expect when you leave the comfort of your home to get to know and care for others? Leader Note: As Pastor indicated, some people are very receptive, quite thankful for prayer on their behalf. However, Christians can feel like "lambs among wolves" (v. 3) or in need of Jesus' comforting words about rejection (v. 16).

7) ZZZ How do you feel about the harvest in your neighborhood?
Follow-up Question: Have you identified a receptive person (a "person of peace") with whom you might create a friendship?

Read Luke 9:1–6 (Additional Resource)

8) In this passage, Jesus sent out his twelve disciples. Based on this and the previous passage from Luke, what was Jesus' purpose in commissioning his followers?
Follow-up Question: What role does the kingdom of God play in your life?

9) State Do you have a sense of purpose to your life, to the way you spend your time and energy?

10) What is one thing in particular you learned from this sermon series or from group discussion that could help you love God with all your being and will the best for others?

Group Prayer