

## LOVE SERIES

### Group discussion notes \_ Week 2 \_ A new commandment

#### INTRODUCTION

At the so-called 'Last Supper' Jesus introduced a new command, a guiding principle at the core of all who follow him and call him Lord.

In John 15:12 Jesus says: *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."*

This is the essence of authentic Christianity and what it's all about.

#### START THE CONVERSATION

Q.: Have you ever been in a crisis and then received help from someone you would **never** have expected it from? How did this make you feel?

#### GOING DEEPER

**READ TOGETHER: Luke 10:30-37 (CSB)**

30 Jesus took up the question and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. 34 He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.'

36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

37 "The one who showed mercy to him," he said.

Then Jesus told him, *"Go and do the same."*

Jesus' charge to his followers is that we are to imitate the Samaritan: *"Go and do likewise."*

Here we see four elements revealed in the heart attitude of the Samaritan with regards to his approach to the injured man:

1. Not only is he concerned but he has **compassion** on the man.
2. He refused to remain an eyewitness of the disaster but goes closer to make **contact**, thereby responding to the crisis.
3. The injured man was in need of **care** and so the Samaritan did what was needed to bring relief.
4. The Samaritan was bought into this crisis to such an extent that he spared no **cost**.

Opposed to this is the apparent apathy of the religious office bearers and only great **concern** to keep the **law** – both the priest and the Levite are meticulous about observing and not violating ceremonial prescriptions concerning the exercise of their office (they dare not touch the victim by the roadside).

Q.: Growing up, what were some of the preconceived ideas, prejudices and reservations that might have caused you to behave in a similar way to the priest and the Levite?

At the end of the parable, Jesus asks this startling question, *36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?"*

Q.: Discuss in detail the above four elements visible in the Samaritan's **compassionate** response. How would these elements find expression in our locality with its challenges in terms of lostness, pain and brokenness??

#### IN YOUR LIFE

The New Movement that Jesus started demands of his followers to go beyond showing concern for the lostness, pain and brokenness of the world – we are called to have compassion by getting involved.

Q.: In which ways can you as a group get involved in the lives of individuals, organisations etc. and in this way practically love others?

## **PRAY TOGETHER**

Take some time to pray together as a group: pray for strategies to reach others with compassionate love.

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