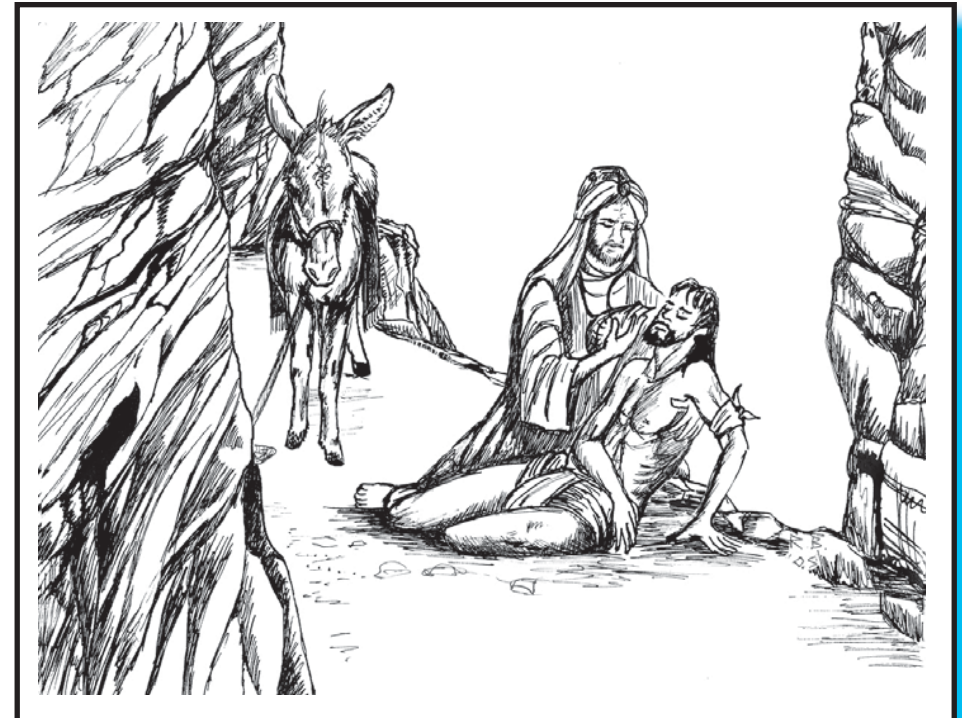


THE GOOD SAMARITAN



BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES



Christ to the World Ministries

P. O. Box 360
Judson, Texas 75660

903-297-0704
903-297-0625 Fax

CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES



CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Christ to the World Ministries is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to sharing the gospel of Christ with the world through radio dramas and printed and oral studies based on Scripture. The printed lessons can be studied by one person or by a group.

Writer: Art Criscoe
Artist: Ruth Bochte
Editor in Chief: Dr. LeRoy Ford
Bible Editor: Dr. Lorin Cranford

For additional information, please contact Larry Alston. email larryalston@cablelynx.com

Dear Friend,

I am glad that you are interested in studying the Bible. It is God's Word to us and in it, we find the way of salvation and guidance for daily living. The main theme of the Bible is God's love for us and how he expressed that love by Jesus Christ dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus arose from the grave and today He will save every person who puts his or her faith and trust in Him.

This study guide will help you gain a better understanding of the Bible. Open your heart to what God has for you through the study. I have prayed that your study will be life changing.

May God bless you richly,

*Larry Alston
Christ to the World Ministries*



Copyright 2006 by **Christ to the World Ministries**. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a study of one Jesus' great teaching on a key principal of Christian life.

This Bible study will help you gain a better understanding of how to express your love to God. It will show you the necessity of putting your faith and love into action. You will see a beautiful picture of a Christian life.

You can write in this study guide. Don't keep it clean and unmarked! When the guide asks you to respond, don't simply think of your response. Take time to write it down. Doing so helps internalize and reinforce your learning. Write from your heart. Onlu you will see what you write.

As writer, I will work along with you as you complete your study. I will share with you my own responses to most of the questions and activities. This does not mean that my responses are any more correct than yours; it simply means that you will have the benefit of a fellow traveler walking beside you as you move through the study.

Keep your Bible before you as you complete the study. When asked to read a passage of Scripture, take time to read it.

Ready? Then let's get started.

Begin your study with prayer. Make the following prayer your very own.

Dear God, please open your Word to me as I study. Speak to my heart. Help me obey your will for my life. Help me do what you want me to do. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

THE SCRIPTURE

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered: "'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, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

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

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:25-37

THE OCCASION

The lawyer knew all about the Old Testament. His job was to know every detail of the law and interpret it to the people. Lawyers held a high position in Jewish society as religious scholars. However, even though they knew the Law of

Moses in every detail, they did not know the One to whom the law pointed. They rejected God's counsel and God's way.

The lawyer spoken about in Luke 10 wanted to test Jesus. He knew that Jesus had not attended a rabbinical school and he thought he could embarrass Jesus. He wanted to make Jesus look bad and himself look good.

Read Luke 10:25 again. Underline the question the lawyer asked Jesus.

Jesus turned the question around and referred the expert to the law. The lawyer was not expecting this, but he was ready. He wore on his wrist, especially at prayer times, a little leather pouch, called a phylactery, containing a small scroll with the words of Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and a few other passages of Scripture. (See Matt. 23:5.)

He wore another container with the same Scripture as a frontlet on his forehead. When he entered his house he passed another little container containing the Scripture, fastened beside the door.

This Scripture from Deuteronomy was called the Shema, taken from the first word in Deuteronomy 6:4, which conveys the idea of both hearing and obeying. A devout Jew would recite this Scripture twice a day. So the lawyer knew exactly what to say.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Then complete this sentence:

This passage is called the _____, and it emphasizes loving God as expressed in our _____.

The Shema emphasizes loving God as expressed in our obedience. James emphasized this point: *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says”* (James 1:22).

Read Luke 10:27 and underline the answer the lawyer gave to Jesus.

The expert added to the commandment to love God completely. He added the commandment from Leviticus 19:18 to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus himself on other occasions used both these commandments in summing up the law. (See Mark 12:28-31.)

Read Matthew 22:35-40 and Mark 12:28-31. Then complete this sentence: Jesus made very clear that we must express love toward _____ and also toward our _____.

Love has a horizontal dimension as well as a vertical dimension. We must love God and also love our neighbor.

Read Luke 10:28. Underline what Jesus told the lawyer to do.

The lawyer certainly did not expect Jesus to tell him to keep the law he had just quoted. He shifted the subject. He asked Jesus an insincere question: *“Who is my neighbor?”* Perhaps he thought he could engage Jesus in a theological debate about what a neighbor meant.

The definition of “neighbor” presented a loophole for the pious Jews. They had it all worked out. They had a narrow view of who was classified as a neighbor. They certainly did not consider anyone other than a Jew as a neighbor, and they even excluded some Jews, such as the tax collector told about in Luke 18:10-13.

Rather than engaging in debate, Jesus told a parable. A parable conveys a spiritual truth in the form of a story.

Read the parable again. This time, read it aloud.

THE PARABLE

The road----Jesus told about the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Jerusalem was about 2500 feet above sea level and Jericho was about 1000 feet below sea level. The 18 mile road, very narrow, steep, winding, and treacherous, afforded robbers an ideal place to waylay unsuspecting travelers. The desolate mountains and rocks and deep ravines along the road gave robbers perfect places to hide. For this reason, most people, especially when they carried goods or valuables, traveled the road in caravans.

The traveler----This man, probably a Jew, traveled alone from Jerusalem toward Jericho. Jesus tells nothing else about him. Many questions come to mind, but we have no answers. What cargo did he carry? Did he have a donkey? Did he live in Jericho? Did he have a family? How old was he? Did he travel this road often? Why did he travel alone? We do not know.



The robbers----Jesus told about some robbers. Many questions come to mind about them also. What weapons did they carry? Why did they strip the man of his clothes? Why did they beat him so brutally? Where did they live? What were their families like? What turned them to a life of crime? What did their children think about them? Did they ever long for a better life? Did any of them ever forsake their evil ways? Of course we don't know the answers to any of these questions because the story did not actually happen. It was a parable Jesus told to illustrate spiritual truth.

Read Luke 10:30 below. Circle at least three things the robbers did to the traveler.

“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.”

Jesus does not tell us the number of robbers involved, but it was a violent attack. They did more than rob the man. They stripped him of his clothes and beat him mercilessly and they left him half-dead.

The priest----Jesus then told about a priest who came down the road. Priests were descendants of Aaron. Each priest got to serve in the Temple at prescribed times. A large number of priests lived in Jericho and it may be that the priest was on his way home after his service in the Temple. When we first read of the priest coming along, we think that he may help the traveler. But the story didn't turn out that way.

Read Luke 10:31. Place a check beside each of the following actions the priest took as he approached the scene of the robbery.

- a. The priest talked with the man.
- b. The priest looked at the man.
- c. The priest prayed for the man.
- d. The priest stopped and helped the man.
- e. The priest called for help.
- f. The priest passed by without helping.



The Levite----Jesus told about a Levite who passed by. Levites were descendants of the tribe of Levi but not of Aaron. They consecrated themselves totally to the work of God and served as helpers to the priests. Surely the Levite would help.

Read Luke 10:32. Write two things the Levite did as he approached the scene of the crime.

1. _____
2. _____

Of all the people in Israel who would have compassion and help a man who had been robbed and beaten to near the point of death, we would think the priest and Levite would help. But not so. They saw the man. They couldn't miss him on the narrow road. But they "*passed by on the other side.*" They did not help.



The Samaritan----The story reaches a climax when Jesus tells about a Samaritan who stopped to help. A Samaritan was the last person people would expect to help the wounded Jew. The lawyer and the others who listened to Jesus were no doubt surprised when he identified a Samaritan as a compassionate helper.

The Jews and Samaritans did not like each other. Their animosity dated back to Old Testament times. When Assyria conquered the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C., they carried many of the Jews away into captivity. The Assyrians brought in people from other countries to settle in Israel. (See 2 Kings 17:5-6, 24.) The remaining Jews intermarried with these people from other nations and the Samaritans descended from them. The Jews despised the Samaritans.



Read Luke 10:33-35. Write at least five things the Samaritan did to help the man in the ditch.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The Samaritan could have offered many excuses for not helping the man. But instead, he had true compassion and most likely saved the man's life. He stopped to help. He laid aside prejudice and hatred between Jew and Samaritan. He put his own safety at risk; the robbers could still be in the area. He administered first aid. He provided bandages, perhaps tearing his own clothing to make them..

He lifted the man and put him on his donkey and walked beside him. He checked the man in at the inn and cared for him. The next day, before leaving, he gave the innkeeper money to provide care for the man. He promised to reimburse the innkeeper for any additional expenses he might incur.



Jesus finished the parable and asked the lawyer which one of the three persons was a neighbor to the man beaten and left for dead. Unwilling to even utter the word "Samaritan," the lawyer replies, "*The one who had mercy on him*" (Luke 10:37). Jesus told the lawyer to go and do the same.

APPLICATION

Now that we have studied the parable of the Good Samaritan, let's discover the lessons it teaches us and then decide what actions we should take in our own life.

Read the following statements. Think about each one. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement by writing "A" or "D" in the blank beside the statement.

- ___ 1. No excuse the priest and Levite could offer would justify their refusal to help the man.
- ___ 2. The Samaritan could have justified not helping since the wounded man was most likely a Jew.
- ___ 3. A person can be a good Christian without helping others.
- ___ 4. Being a neighbor means helping others.
- ___ 5. Helping others often involves costly sacrifice.

Here's my thinking on the statements above. Again, if your thinking differs from mine, that's all right. We can view statements like these from different perspectives.

I agree with statement one. There was no excuse for not helping. Evidently the priest and Levite were both able-bodied men, since the 18 miles between Jerusalem and Jericho was a strenuous journey. It was in their power to help but they refused. But when I agree with the statement, I indict myself. When I am able to help persons in need and refuse, I am just as guilty.

I disagree with statement two. Differences of race or nationality or bitter rivalry and hatred between groups afford no excuse for refusing to help a person in need. Life bundles us all together.

I disagree with statement three. Since God expects Christians to help others, we must do just that. We don't help others in order to be "good." We help because that's the kind of person Christ makes us. Our refusal to help others casts doubt upon the authenticity of our faith. We are indeed our brother's keeper.

I agree with statements four and five. Being a neighbor involves costly sacrifice. Following Christ involves helping those in need.

Look again at the five drawings in this lesson. Study them for a few minutes. Write beside each picture a sentence or caption that tells what is happening.

Spend a few minutes thinking about the following questions. (No written response necessary.)

1. Why do you think Jesus chose a priest and Levite, both religious leaders, to pass by the wounded man without helping?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose a Samaritan as the one who extended help to the wounded man?
3. If Jesus were telling this parable today in your community, what characters do you think he would use instead of priest, Levite and Samaritan?
4. What do you think motivated the Samaritan to help the man?
5. In what ways were the priest and Levite worse off than the wounded man?

The following statements summarize what the story of the Good Samaritan teaches us.

- Jesus did not teach that we obtain eternal life by ministering to the needs of others. He taught that our love for God results in love for and ministry to others.
- Our love for people indicates our love for God. Love for God is difficult to see, but love for others can be easily seen. Love is something you do.
- Love must transcend race, nationality and religion.

Read again the statements above. Spend a few minutes reflecting on them. Think of your own life in light of each truth. (No written response necessary.)

Commit the following Bible verses to memory.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39).

Read the verses aloud over and over until you can say them from memory. Write them on a little card or slip of paper and carry it with you. Repeat the verses every day.

Summarize in a sentence or two the main thing God has taught you in your study.

Close your study with the following prayer. Make it a part of your prayer life each day.

“Dear Lord, please help me be a Good Samaritan to someone today.”

GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY

You can lead your family or a group of friends, neighbors or perhaps a church group in a study of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Doing so will strengthen your own life and God will make you a blessing to others.

The following suggestions will help you lead a small group study.

Each person in the group has contributions to make. Each person should take active part in the discussion. No one should dominate the time together.

Begin the study with prayer. Read aloud Luke 10:25-37.

Using the five drawings as visual aids, tell the story of the Good Samaritan in your own words. Take your time and show the drawings to the group as you tell the story. Answer any questions group members may ask.

Ask group members to respond to the five questions on page 15. There is no one correct answer so it is important to share thoughts and feelings.

Read aloud each of the five “Agree or Disagree” statements on page 14. Ask persons who agree with the statement to raise their hand. Then ask persons who disagree with the statement to raise their hand. Then ask, Why do you agree? disagree? Allow time for discussion.

Ask members of the group to respond to the following questions and statements. Again, there is no one correct answer. Ask group members to share thoughts and feelings.

1. How are parents like robbers when they do not teach their children about God?
2. What are some ways society leaves some people in the ditch?
3. Describe a time when you left someone in the ditch.
4. Why do we often find it easier to help someone across an ocean than to reach out and help someone down the street?
5. Name some of the wounded and beaten people in our society today?
6. Who has been a Good Samaritan to you? How?
7. Describe one occasion of how you have been a Good Samaritan to someone in need.
8. What do you consider the main teaching of this parable?
9. What do you believe God wants us to do as a result of this study?

Read to the group the following section “Responding to God.” Pray the prayer for yourself and help each person pray it for himself or herself.

Now that you have studied God's Word, he wants you to respond.

RESPONDING TO GOD

Notes:

The Bible teaches that you are a sinner.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). “There is no one righteous, not even one” (Rom. 3:10).

But God loves you and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sin.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).

You receive Christ as your Savior by turning from your sin and placing your faith and trust in him.

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out” (Acts 3:19). “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom 10:13).

Pray this prayer:

“Dear God, I know that I'm a sinner. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and lives today. I now turn from my sins. I place my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. I receive Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”

Welcome into God's family!

Share with others that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask for baptism by immersion in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis. Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.