



## “House of Love”

Luke 10

### Small Group Plan

John Darley and Daniel Batson are two Princeton University psychologists who conducted a study at Princeton Theological Seminary. They met with a group of seminarians and asked each one to prepare a short talk on a given theme. Some were asked to prepare a talk on ministry opportunities available for students after graduation. Others were asked to prepare a short devotional on the story of the Good Samaritan.

It was arranged for the students to walk individually to a nearby building to present their talk. However, on the way to the presentation site, each student would encounter a man who was planted in an alley. He would be lying there, obviously injured and in great pain. The researchers wanted to find out who would stop to help the man. They also wanted to discover if being in a hurry made a difference. So they told one third of the group that they had plenty of time to get to the building to give their talk. Another third was told that they would just make it in time if they left right now. And the last third was told that they were already late and should leave immediately! In other words, the experimenters put their subjects into “*low hurry*” “*intermediate hurry*” and “*high hurry*” situations.

So, who offered to help the man in pain? It turned out that it made no significant difference whether the student was giving a talk on job opportunities or the Good Samaritan. What did make a difference was how much of a hurry he was in. Of the “*low hurry*” subjects, 63% offered help; of the “*intermediate hurry*” subjects, 45% offered help; and of the “*high hurry*” students, only 10% offered help.

### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- What does the above study teach us about slowing down?
- What does it teach us about compassion?

## LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

### — HEARING LOVE —

#### Luke 10:25-29

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup> 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.’ <sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” <sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

- Why did the lawyer want to justify himself?
- Why did Jesus answer the lawyer with this story?
- What is the connection between loving God and loving people?
- Jesus said these two will bring life (v. 28). How/why can they bring life?

### — AVOIDING LOVE —

#### Luke 10:30-32

<sup>30</sup> “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. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

- Imagine the reasons, religious or not, that the priest and Levite could have invented that would keep them from offering their help?
- What is the basic conflict between their choice to officially represent God (priest and Levite) and their choice to withhold God’s service and love?

### — LIVING LOVE —

#### Luke 10:33-35

<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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.’

- Identify the six action verbs that describe the Samaritan (v. 34).
- How do these actions fill out or illustrate the real meaning of love?
- Explain the risk the Samaritan took (v. 35).

— **LEARNING LOVE** —

**Luke 10:36-37**

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” <sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

- When Jesus asked the lawyer to pick out a person from the story he had just told who acted like a “neighbor” the lawyer could not bring himself to say the word “Samaritan.” Why?
- Notice how the lawyer’s question (v. 25) “Who is my neighbor?” and Jesus’ question (v. 36) “Which ... was a neighbor?” sound very similar but are in fact very different.
- How did they use the term “neighbor” in different ways? Why did the lawyer ask his question and why did Jesus ask his question?

**USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- We don’t usually find victims along the road. Where is the roadside where we find people today?
- Is today’s compassion usually careful or is it risky? How and Why?
- What kind of person or in what kind of situation would you be least likely to stop and help? Who or where would you be most likely to stop and help? Explain the difference.
- Who are some “Good Samaritans” that you personally know? Why do you think of them as such?
- Our congregational vision statement is “*Passion for God / Compassion for People.*” Close in prayer asking God to show you what love really means and to give you an opportunity this week to be His Samaritan.