

Group Discussion Questions

Week 2



Stop Acting Like a Christian, Be One Week 2

- Describe a time when you showed compassion to someone that was in need. How did that interaction make you feel?
- Describe a time when you were in need and you were the recipient of someone else's compassion. How did that interaction make you feel?

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Luke 10:25-37 (KJV)

- Who are our neighbors? Which of your neighbors does it seem easy for you to overlook sometimes? Do you think others overlook them as well? If so, why?
- What specific things about loving your neighbor stand out to you in this passage?
- Are your neighbors better off because you are a follower of Christ? Why or why not?

- True compassion moves us to cross the street and help. What specific cause are you most passionate about such as poverty, injustice, disease, education, etc.? Have you been moved to action? If so, how?
- Discuss some specific ways your group can work together to help a specific cause you are all passionate about or some people you know with specific needs.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

- How does fear sometimes hold us back in showing compassion to others? How have you seen God working to remove that specific fear from your life?
- In addition to fear, what other things tend to hold you back from showing compassion to others?

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 (KJV)

- The plan God has for any one of our lives, involves taking risks. Describe a time when following God's direction meant taking a risk. What were the results of your taking a risk? How did it affect your faith?

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1 John 4:4 (KJV)

- How is God currently using you to show compassion to others in your local community? Do you hear him asking you take a risk? If so, what is it?

Final thought: As Christ renews us and our compassion for others grows, we'll be moved to take bigger and bigger risks. With your group, take a few moments to ask God for the wisdom and faith in Him to risk more. There are an infinite number of needs in any community. Ask God where He would like you to focus the resources, talents and passions He has given your group.

Group Discussion Questions

Week 2



Stop Acting Like a Christian, Be One—Week 2

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What do you think motivates most people to do good?

Explore

Read Luke 10:25-37

- What did the legal expert ask Jesus? (10:25)
- How did the legal expert summarize the demands of the Law? (10:27)
- What did the expert ask about loving one's neighbor? (10:29)
- How did Jesus reply to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" (10:30-35)
- What did the priest and the Levite do to help the man who was robbed and beaten? (10:31-32)
- What was the Samaritan's response to what he saw? (10:33-35)
- Why did the Samaritan help the beaten man? (10:33)
- What relationship did Jesus use to characterize the Samaritan's behavior? (10:36)
- How did the legal expert define the neighbor in the parable? (10:37)

Reflect

- How effective is this parable in communicating love for one's neighbor?

- What makes it sometimes easier for you to act more like the priest and the Levite than like the Samaritan in this story?
- How practical do you think was the Samaritan's approach to the man in need?
- How does it feel when someone has mercy on you?
- In what ways can we as individuals and as groups of Christians be more like the Samaritan?

Apply

- What step can you take to help meet someone else's physical needs?

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Luke 10:25-37. Pray for those that you know are in need. Commit to God that you will step up and take more risks to help those that are in need. Pray for your neighbors.

Day 2: Read 2 Timothy 1:7. Pray and ask God to help remove any fear that you have in your life that may be holding you back from stepping out and helping those that are in need.

Day 3: Read Ephesians 2:10. Pray and ask God that He will give you more opportunities in your life in the upcoming weeks to help those in need.

Day 4: Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Take time in prayer to thank God for all He has done in your life. Pray that God will use you as an instrument to show compassion to others.

Day 5: Read 1 John 4:4. Pray and ask God to empower you and your group to make a difference in your community in ministering and showing compassion to others.