

“When Stories Intersect”

Series: “*Story*”

(Part 2 of 4)

Open: What is the nicest thing a total stranger has ever done for you?

Explore: Read John 13:3-17.

In this passage, Jesus is only hours away from certain death on the cross. In a final teaching opportunity, Jesus takes time to illustrate the kind of lifestyle his followers should live.

1. What did Jesus do after finishing the evening meal with the disciples (vs. 3-5)? What motivated Jesus to do this?
2. Why was it important that the disciples allow Jesus to wash their feet (vs. 6-11)? In what way did Peter’s personality shine through in this section?
3. How did Jesus intend His example to impact the disciples (vs. 12-16)?
4. What promise did Jesus make to those who choose to lead a lifestyle of service (vs. 17)?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. On a scale of 1-5, how aware are you of the needs of others who intersect your life? Explain.
2. The Samaritan had a list of reasons for *not* helping the man in need. What obstacles keep people from serving today?
3. One reason the Samaritan was able to help is because he did have some margin in his life (he had resources to help). In what way do you need to create margin in your life in order to be more generous with others?
4. Sometimes helping those in need can be messy. Describe a time you got “messy” in order to help another person. Do you believe it is possible to serve without getting a little dirty? Why or why not?
5. Ultimately God wants our story to intersect with the stories of others. Who do you believe God has put in your life right now that He wants you to love? This week, how will you “go and do likewise” in their life as Jesus commanded?

Live:

As a group: Evaluate the readiness and willingness of your group to meet the needs of one another, and of those in the community. One easy way to serve as a group is to serve together during a weekend service. Plan to serve together with the Welcome Team / Krush Gameroom / or Usher Team.

On your own: Ask God to grow a heart of service in you. Look around and identify people God has put in your life. Prayerfully consider how your life can intersect with theirs. Also, if you are not involved on a ministry team, make the commitment to start serving with others in 2010.

Listening Guide Notes

^[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?’” –**Luke 10:27-29 (NIV)**

^[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 10:30-37 (NIV)**

Good reasons why their stories should not have intersected...

1. He was busy.

“...a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was...” –**v33**

2. He was a different race.

“But a Samaritan...” –**v33**

3. It was going to cost him.

“...he took out two silver coins...” –**v35**

4. He wasn’t going to get any return.

“...when I return, I will reimburse you...” –**v35**

Why should I allow my story to intersect with another story?

It's something Jesus wants to include as part of my story.

"The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'" –**Luke 10:37 (NIV)**

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others."
–**1 Peter 4:10a (NIV)**

"Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions." –**1 John 3:18 (LB)**

"Your attitude must be like My own, for I did not come to be served, but to serve." –**Matthew 20:28 (LB)**