

Priming the Pump

1. Begin by reading the Scripture for this week's message, Luke 10:25-37.
2. Have you ever been in a position where you only needed a bit of compassion from one person, like the Samaritan in this week's parable, to help you through a difficult situation? Perhaps you had a roadside emergency, were lost in an unfamiliar place, or suffered an unexpected financial need. Talk about the experience with your group.

Getting into the Word

3. The lawyer was correct and knew what God required to inherit eternal life, as Jesus affirmed his recitation of Deuteronomy 6:4-5. But the lawyer followed this up by attempting to play word games to affirm his own righteousness before God.

Have you ever been in a difficult conversation with another person who was playing word games to avoid a simple truth of Scripture? Perhaps this was an unbeliever misquoting verses to support an existing conclusion, or perhaps this was a believer who took a single short phrase out of context that clearly doesn't fit with the rest of the Bible. How did you try to correct the other person? Did they come around to your explanation or persist in their views?

4. Samaritans were utterly despised by ancient Jews, as genetic "half-breeds" who worshipped God at a false place outside Jerusalem. Yet Jesus often engaged Samaritans to illustrate points to His disciples, as He ushered in a new age with no racial boundaries to worship. Read the following Scriptures and talk about what lessons about race, social class, gender, or other "human" boundary Jesus taught?
 - a. John 4:1-42
 - b. Luke 9:51-56
 - c. Luke 17:11-19

