

# Who is my neighbor?

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## Scripture

25 One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”

27 The man answered, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”[c]

28 “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

29 The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Main point: We instinctively tend to place limits on helping people. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor. But knowing this is simply not enough to motivate us.

Luke 10:25-29 (NLT)

## Discussion Questions

1. How do I define neighbor? How does my community define it? My country?
2. How is Jesus challenging his audience to expand their definition of neighbor? How is he challenging me to me to expand my own definitions?
3. Call to mind examples of people or groups of people who you/your community/your country do not consider neighbors. What would it look like to be a neighbor to those individuals or groups of people?



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4. How should Jesus' love and sacrifice for us when we were unworthy and powerless affect motivation, or lack of motivation, to love our neighbors (especially the least of these)?

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