

**Discussion / Reflection Guide -- “Be A Friend”**  
**Week of October 1, 2017**

**Read Luke 10:25-37**

- Was the teacher of the law (vs. 25) really interested in knowing the answer he asked? Or was he just trying to “trap” Jesus in some theological debate?
- Jesus didn’t fall for his trap. He turned the tables and told the teacher that he needed to love God and love his neighbor (vs. 27-28). The story which follows (vs. 30-37) was his attempt to explain what it means to love God and love others.

Consider the main characters in this story:

- a Jewish man was attacked;
- Jewish priest ignored him;
- a Jewish temple assistant ignored him;
- a hated Samaritan helped him.
- Why do you suppose Jesus told the story with these particular characters in those particular roles?
- What was he trying to communicate?

Consider what the Samaritan did to help him:

- He saw the need
- He allowed his heart to be moved with compassion
- He took action to help the immediate need
- He made provisions for continued care

Questions:

- Have you ever experienced a time when you needed help and someone showed you the same kind of compassion?
- How did that make you feel?
- What kind of impact did it have on you?

- Have you ever showed that kind of compassion to someone else in need?
- What kind of impact did it have on them?

Pastor Dan used this story to illustrate what it means to be a friend to those around you who are in need.

- Do you know of others around you who might have some sort of need? In other words, have you “seen” the needs around you?
- Have you allowed your heart to be moved with compassion? Or have you “guarded” your heart and been more like the priest and temple assistant in the story?
- What could you do to “be a friend” to those in need?

### **Read 1 Peter 3:15**

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25ff) talks about loving God and loving others. This verse in 1 Peter 3:15 also talks about loving God and worship Jesus as the Lord of your life. There is an assumption in this verse: if you commit your life to Jesus, He will make a difference in your life. You will find hope as a result of placing your faith in Jesus.

Questions:

- Have you placed your faith in Jesus?
- Has He made a difference in your life? If so, what changes has He made? Do you have the “hope” this verse talks about?
- Take a few minutes and think about the “hope” God has given you. Think about the change God has made in your life. Then spend a few minutes thinking about how you could share this with others should they ask what God has done in your life.