STUDY GUIDE

Nov 8 2026



START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt

Heavenly Father, thank You for welcoming us with Your love. Give us Your heart for the people around us, especially those we find difficult to love. Help us notice needs, challenge our excuses, and make room for people beyond our inner circle. Teach us to show mercy with our time, resources, and actions. May our church be a place where people are welcomed as family. In Jesus' name, Amen.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

- **Luke 10:25-37 (main reading)**
- **Leviticus 19:33-34 — Love the stranger as yourself.**
- **Matthew 5:43-48 — Love and pray for your enemies.**
- **Romans 15:7 — Welcome others as Christ welcomed you.**
- **1 John 3:16-18 — Love through practical action.**

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. **When has someone gone out of their way to help you or make you feel welcome? What did their actions communicate that words alone couldn't?**

2. **The expert in the law wanted to justify himself. What reasons do we give for keeping our distance from someone in need? Which excuses are easiest for you to make?**

3. **Jesus made an unexpected person the example of mercy. Who do you find hardest to see as your neighbour? How might this story challenge the assumptions you make about them?**

4. **The Samaritan gave his time, comfort, and money. Which would be hardest for you to give right now? What could a thoughtful, practical response to someone's need look like this week?**

5. **Think about someone outside your usual circle at church, work, or in your neighbourhood. What could help them feel that they belong? What first step could you take?**

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

- **Widen Your Circle:** Connect with someone you don't usually spend time with. Learn their name, listen to their story, or invite them to share a coffee or meal. Make space to get to know them.
- **Notice and Respond:** When you notice a need, pause before moving on. Offer practical help using the time or resources you have, or involve someone equipped to help. Choose one act of care and follow through.
- **Check Your Heart:** Ask God, "Who have I treated as outside the reach of my love?" Notice your attitudes toward people who differ from you. Pray for their good and ask God to show you one way to love them.