



## WEEK 3 - STUDY GUIDE

Message by Chad Bruegman

### START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

**What do you think makes you different or unique from other people?**

### SHARE

Welcome to our teaching Series called "The Outsiders." When you think of outsiders, you think of people who just don't seem to fit, or you think of outcasts and rebels; the people on the outside looking in. But what did Jesus think about outsiders? I think you might be surprised at who the outsiders are in God's eyes, and it certainly isn't who you think it is. That's because in God's eyes, we were all outsiders at one time. What if knowing that God loved us even when we were outsiders changed the way we saw people?

In today's opening question, what did you say about what made you different or unique? For some of us, it may be our appearance. However, for a majority of people, what makes us different is our personality traits, hobbies, things that we do or ways we act that make us unique. Today we are going to stop a moment and listen to what Jesus says about loving those who might seem different from us. Because when we really get to the bottom of it all, we are all the same.

**Read:**

**Luke 10:25-37**

**What is the most significant thing that stands out to you when you read this?**

**In what ways can you identify with the lawyer?**

**Have you ever experienced a time when you felt passed over when you needed help most?  
How did that impact you?**

**Has the experience of "being passed by" made you more compassionate to other people, or more hardened toward others who need help? Why?**

## GROW

All of us gravitate toward trying to divide people into categories.

Let's face it, even when we try to consciously battle those thoughts, we tend to classify people anyway. It is part of our fallen human nature. By doing this, we can better justify our own behavior at times.

Like the lawyer from the story, we want to see where the lines are drawn and ask God, "who is my neighbor?" We can fall into the trap of asking, who is it I am responsible to care for and who doesn't qualify? We live in a hostile world, where opposing sides of issues like to use the politics of division to create an "us vs. them" mentality. It is a never-ending vicious-cycle of back and forth that will never be solved in a court room. It will never be solved because your person got elected. Is it important that we vote and are engaged in standing up for the truth? Absolutely. We are to be salt and light in this world. Ultimately, the problem is the human heart and the only hope we all have is through Jesus Christ and his blood that was shed for us. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can be reconciled to God and to each other. What great news that God has already made a way!

The reality, according to scripture, is that we have "all fallen short." Each one of us has believed our way is better than God's way and in the end we have suffered the consequences. The good news is that God shows us a different way to live, to love and to be. So we no longer view the world in hundreds of divisions, but as people with souls that need the redemption of Jesus Christ.

### **Luke 10:29**

**A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.**

**Since the man was beaten unconscious, unable to speak, stripped of clothing, there was no way to judge what culture he came from. This was just a person in need of help. Why is this important to the story?**

**Of all the people who walked by and saw the man, which one had compassion on him?**

The New American Commentary gives us a crucial insight into the reason Jesus used a "Samaritan" in the story:

The term "Samaritan" is in an emphatic position in the sentence. Jesus deliberately chose an outsider, and a hated one at that, for his hero in order to indicate that being a neighbor is not a matter of nationality or race. The mutual hatred of the Jews and the Samaritans is evident in such passages as John 4:9; 8:48. The united kingdom was divided after Solomon's death due to the foolishness of his son, Rehoboam (1 Kgs 12). The ten northern tribes formed a nation known variously as Israel, Ephraim, or (after the capital city built by Omri) Samaria. In 722 B.C. Samaria fell to the Assyrians, and the leading citizens were exiled and dispersed throughout the Assyrian Empire. Non-Jewish peoples were then brought into Samaria. Intermarriage resulted, and the "rebels" became "half-breeds" in the eyes of the Southern Kingdom of Judea. (Jews comes from the term Judea.) After the Jews returned from exile in Babylon, the Samari-

tans sought at first to participate in the rebuilding of the temple. When their offer of assistance was rejected, they sought to impede its building (Ezra 4–6; Neh 2–4). The Samaritans later built their own temple on Mount Gerizim, but led by John Hyrcanus the Jews destroyed it in 128 B.C. (cf. John 4:20–21). So great was Jewish and Samaritan hostility that Jesus’ opponents could think of nothing worse to say of him than, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?” (John 8:48; cf. also 4:9).

## MOVE

Chad mentioned in the message this weekend that when there are problems we are faced with, we tend to gravitate toward instantly finding the solution. We tend to skip an important step. Just like in counseling, first we start with the problem. Second, we listen and feel the pain of the other person. Last, we move into new ways to communicate better and towards the solution.

In this process, let’s not skip the most important step of listening and being empathetic towards the other. It is in this step where God’s love needs to outshine the darkness around us.

### **Galatians 3:26-28**

**So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

What do you think it means to be “clothed” with Christ?

What does this verse say about where our true identity resides?

Has God brought to your minds a group of people different from you that you need to begin praying for?

## PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women’s groups to talk more freely.

## TO GO.

**I John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.**