

SERMON DISCUSSION GROUP

ONE AT A TIME

While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to southeastchristian.org to join a group in person or online, wherever you are - today!

We all have people in our lives that are difficult to love. Jesus gives us the ability to love beyond what we think we are capable of and expands the limits of what it means to love other people one at a time.

While He often was surrounded by crowds wherever He went, Jesus was always able to see beyond the crowds and focus on the one. As followers of Jesus, we want to live like He did—loving people *one at a time*. We invite you to download the new 1X App to begin growing in your faith while being challenged to live as Jesus did throughout each day.

Who are some people you struggle to love? What types of people are difficult for you to show compassion to? Why do you think you struggle to love them? What excuses have you made to avoid loving them? How do you think Jesus wants to expand your capacity to love these kinds of people?

Read Matthew 5:38-48. What does Jesus say in these verses about having an “extra mile mentality”? What does that kind of mentality look like today? Think of one practical way you can “go the extra mile” for someone this week.

In Matthew 5:48, Jesus asks to us “be perfect” in love, just as God is. In what ways is God’s love perfect? What would it look like for us to live with that kind of love? How can we share that love with the messy and mean people in our lives?

Read Luke 10:25-37. How did the expert in the Law want to limit what it means to be a neighbor? What are some ways we try to do the same today? How does Jesus expand our concept of what it means to be a neighbor?

Make a list of all the things the Samaritan did for the wounded man. How does this exhibit that “extra mile mentality” Jesus talked about in Matthew 5? Why is it significant that this kind of love is illustrated between a Jew and a Samaritan? What are some barriers that keep us from loving people today? How does this parable encourage us to love people beyond those borders?

Today, Matt challenged us to think about this story from a new perspective. What if we are not the Good Samaritan, the hero of the parable, but instead, the man wounded on the side of the road? How does this change the way we read the parable? In what ways does it motivate us to love others with this kind of love?