

“Offer Assistance to the Poor – the Need for Mercy”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

The G.O.S.P.E.L. Plan is how New Day Church responds to the Gospel message in everyday life. As we gather to express our faith in worship and confess our hope in community, we will scatter to demonstrate love to the world. The G.O.S.P.E.L. Plan is how we will “show & share” the Gospel in the world throughout everyday life and on mission to the ends of the earth.

This week we learned about O – Offer Assistance to the Poor. A lawyer asked Jesus a very simple, yet important question, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” The discussion with Jesus that followed uncovered the fact that the lawyer, like us, sought to justify himself. In response to telling Jesus the greatest commands were to love God and love his neighbor, the lawyer asked another question, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus then told him the story of the Good Samaritan. This story taught us there is a need for mercy in our world. The Samaritan, the sworn enemy of the Jew, picked up a helpless Jew off the road, provided for his needs, and restored him to health. The Samaritan, unlike the religious men who previously passed by, proved to be a neighbor to the Jew. He was the one who showed mercy.

In the same way, we were lying helplessly in the road yet Jesus picked us up and rescued us! What better picture of mercy? What better motive for mercy? Just as we have been shown grace we are to respond to others with grace. This was the point Jesus wanted to make to the lawyer and it’s the point He’s making to us today. This is why we do the ministry of mercy.

While we believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, we also believe that faith involves more than mere mental assent to theological doctrines. Jesus wasn’t teaching that salvation can come by imitating the Good Samaritan, however, He was clearly charging us to follow his pattern. He was teaching the truth of James 2:26, “...*faith apart from works is dead!*”

So how does this apply to meeting the needs of the poor? First of all, we are called by Jesus to represent Him in the world by being a neighbor to anyone who has a need. As we generously seek to meet felt needs and the welfare of others in our world, we will have the opportunity to not only show Christ but share Christ with them. As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community examine the list of the various groups of people and their felt needs that was distributed during the worship service and identify ways you can meet these needs and show and share the Gospel of Jesus with them. Also examine the questions on the next page and apply them to your life. Determine how you are currently showing mercy in the world. Where do you need to make adjustments? What will be your first step? Together, let’s meet the need of mercy!

Message Outline

Three motives for mercy ministry:

1. You were lying in the road half-dead before Jesus rescued you.
You were dead in sin; spiritually bankrupt; unable to help yourself.
Jesus showed you mercy.
2. A clear sign of your love for God is a love for your neighbor.
Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
Yet...
Faith apart from works is dead!
3. Gospel grace toward you produces Gospel response from you.
Unconditional love.
Radical generosity.
 - Spontaneous.
 - Sacrificial.
 - Open-ended.

Practical steps toward a ministry of mercy:

1. Show love for your neighbor.
2. Generously meet basic felt needs.
3. Seek the welfare of your city.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Luke 10:25-37:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character? (God’s Identity)
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible? (God’s Action)
3. What is God saying about me? (your identity)
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith? (how you should live in light of your identity)
5. How should I practice this in everyday life? (action steps)

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**
 - Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
 - Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
 - Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
 - Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
 - Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
 - Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- **Local:**
 - Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
 - Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- **Global:**
 - Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
 - Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
 - Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
 - Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
 - Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.