

# Good News people

## Study 4: Good News For Post-modern Man

### Leader's Notes



**Aim:** To encourage individuals in your group to discover their potential and to find their place in the mission of God.

**Discussion question:** What's the best story you've ever read/heard? And what made it so memorable for you? (share in pairs – 5 mins)

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**Introduction:** One of the most vivid stories (parables) that Jesus ever told is found in Luke 10:25-37. Ask a volunteer to read the passage aloud.

In this passage Luke makes it quite clear that from Jesus' perspective the greatest thing we can do is to love God with all you've got and the second thing is to love your neighbour as yourself.

Most of us when we become Christians get the loving God 'thing' – which we invariably interpret as going to church, reading your Bible (sometimes) and praying. However, the loving your neighbour 'thing', while sounding like a nice idea, is in reality much more difficult as a way of life.

Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan gives some clear insight here – in the everyday things of life, going about our 'stuff', he calls us to come alongside those who are in need.

This means that each one of us has an important contribution to make in the mission of God.

*Illustration:* In the film, *Pay it Forward*, a school teacher 'challenges' his class to think of a way to change the world. One (10 year old) boy does this and thinks: if I show special kindness to someone, and they then show special kindness to someone, and that person then shows special kindness to someone, and so on... eventually you might begin to change the world. This is a powerful challenge – it challenges us to ask, what if those of us who have received and been redeemed by God's grace were to share that same grace with all the people we connect with? And what if having received God's grace, they then began to share that grace with others? And so on... What effect might that have on our world?

### Discussion Questions:

1. What things if any, get in the way of you 'loving your neighbour' as a way of life?
2. What difference might it make to those around you, if you began to intentionally seek to show God's grace in all your relationships?
3. Can you think of anything you might begin to do (things you might put in place/ habits you might develop) to encourage you to show God's grace in all your relationships?  
For example, is there anyone that you could behave differently towards tomorrow (or right now, for that matter)?
4. Invite a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (passage below).

The apostle Paul talks about us, having become followers of Jesus – living a new way of life; beginning to see others differently (through the eyes of God); and living as ambassadors of Jesus and as ministers of God's reconciliation.

*At Spring Harvest, in 2016, one speaker at an evening celebration, gave this challenge to Spring Harvester's – 'When you go home, back to work... imagine yourself as 'pastor' to your colleagues at work. As pastor to your office, ...school, ...shop, ...bank etc.). Engage and connect with your colleagues as if you were there pastor...*

What might this look like for you in your situation? (If you're retired or currently unemployed, think of it in terms of your neighbours/friends/family. What impact might it make in your place of work (or wherever you frequent) if you in your office, school, shop, bank...), began to see people through God's eyes – and began intentionally living as an ambassador of Christ and as a minister of God's reconciliation?

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## **2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

<sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

<sup>18</sup> And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

<sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

<sup>21</sup> For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.