

<b>Session # 2 Beautifully Connected in a Broken World</b>	
<p><b>Scripture Focus:</b> Luke 10:27</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> - Drinking straws - Paper</p>	<p><i>27 He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."</i></p> <p>Paper and Straws Game Time Required: 15 minutes This icebreaker game is ideal for small groups and only requires drinking straws and some paper. The group leader needs to draw a large circle on a large piece of paper with concentric circles within it. Then, each circle must be assigned a score, with the biggest score being saved for the smallest, middle circle. This paper is taped onto the middle of a large desk. Then, each participant must gather around the table and be given a drinking straw. The group leader will make dime-sized balls by wadding up bits of paper. It is up to the group leader how many balls will be in play. The participants must blow into their drinking straws to push the balls around. It sounds easy, but as more balls come into play, the participants must plan with their team members how they will push balls into high-scoring sections without moving balls that are already in place. This may require re-positioning themselves in different locations around the table or having different players blow in different directions; it's up to the participants to create their plan of attack. The group leader can end the game once they've reached a specific score or once each ball is in the middle. These simple team building exercises helps youth work together to create and follow through with a plan and it also encourages them to communicate.</p>
<p><b>Key Small Group Activities</b></p> <p><b>Materials:</b> - Several World Map that has been cut up into pieces (will be provided) - battery powered "candles" -Prayers around the world attachment</p>	<p>If you feel your group needs additional time to get to know one another, feel free to add another Ice Breaker before diving into this activity.</p> <p>In the beginning, God created people in God's image, and desired to live in community with human beings forever. When sin entered the world, the relationship between God and humanity immediately changed, and in Genesis chapter 3 we learn that Adam and Eve hid themselves from God. Ever since sin entered the world, there has been brokenness and conflict that was never originally intended. God desires to be back in close relationship with us, and offers us grace through Jesus Christ so that we can live a life filled with beauty and purpose instead of brokenness and separation. Although God wants to in close relationship with all human beings, we can observe throughout the world that brokenness, oppression, and division still exists. God uses people as God's hands and feet in the world. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things in the world and we can all contribute to bringing peace and God's love into our broken world.</p> <p>This exercise is intended to give us space to think critically about the brokenness we see in the world, to visualize ourselves being God's hands and feet in the world, and to pray that God's love would be seen all across the world and that the most oppressed, vulnerable, and disconnected people in our society would experience the grace of God on earth.</p> <p>Split into groups of no more than 5 and give the global puzzle pieces to each group. When a piece is matched, light a candle and have one participant read the prayer request for the continent. *Worksheet attached*</p> <p><b>TOTAL TIME: 20-25 Minutes</b></p>
<p><b>Digging Deeper with Bible Back up</b></p>	<p><b>The Good Samaritan – Then vs. Now</b> Pick volunteers to act out the scripture. You will need:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A hurt person</li> <li>2. 2 robbers</li> <li>3. A priest</li> <li>4. A Levite</li> </ol>

**Materials:**

- Props to make each character come to life.
- Bandages for the hurt,
- ski mask for the robbers,
- A bible for the priest
- A chasuble for the Levite
- a first aid kit for the Samaritan

5. A Samaritan

Read Luke 10:25-37 The Parable of the Good Samaritan

<sup>25</sup> Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus.<sup>[a]</sup> “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii,<sup>[b]</sup> gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Discussion Questions:

Who are the characters in this scripture?

- The lawyer
- Jesus
- Robbers
- The beaten man
- The priest
- The Levite
- The Samaritan

Who was the good neighbor in the story?

- The Samaritan

Why was he considered good?

- Because of his actions

Who was not a good neighbor in the story?

- The priest and the Levite

Why do you think they weren't good neighbors in the story?

- Because they did not help the man who was in need.

Why do you think Jesus's parable would be surprising to his early followers?

- It's surprising that the priest and the Levite didn't stop to check on the man
- It's surprising that the Samaritan is the only one that stopped

*A teaching moment* –It is very likely that the early hearers of this story of Jesus were very surprised that the Samaritan ended up being the hero in this story. When we use the term “good Samaritan” in the 21st century, we think of good Samaritans very differently than how Jesus's early audience would have viewed Samaritans. Jesus's first followers, and the lawyer in this story were all Jewish. In the history of the Samaritan and Judean's relationship, it is clear that the Samaritans are a despised and marginalized group who were viewed very negatively by the Judean community. With conflict starting in as early as 722 BCE, the Samaritans and Judeans have a long history of conflict and opposition. Judeans had a very

negative association with Samaritans and considered them an entirely different community despite their connection and worship to Yahweh.

The story of the Good Samaritan was very surprising to its early hearers because up until that point they had been taught to view Samaritans as unequal and despicable. Through family stories, history, war, and what they learned in the Old Testament about worshipping other gods, there was an automatic assumption that Samaritans were not to be associated with. So when Jesus offers this parable with the Samaritan as the good guy in the situation, he is challenging his audience to think of Samaritans differently and to think of everyone as our neighbor. Jesus offers a new way of thinking about who is considered our neighbor and who isn't. By making the marginalized Samaritan the good person in the story, Jesus challenges them to put aside what they have been taught about Samaritans, and consider a new way of viewing people on an individual level instead of in mass generalizations. After years and years of learning negative things about Samaritans, the Jewish people believed that Samaritans were up to no good. This made it very difficult for them to envision a story where the Samaritan was a good neighbor rather than a bad person.

### 1. Modern Day Samaritan - (High Schoolers)

After the more serious and introspective earlier portions of this session, this is a chance for participants to have a bit more fun, exercise their creativity, and look at scripture in a new way! Begin by splitting the group into small groups of 4-5 and giving them the following instructions:

**(Say)** Many of us have heard the Good Samaritan stories a billion times, but what would it look like in today's society?? Using the same storyline (a person in need of help who is ignored by others and eventually someone comes to help them) and think of a way that this story can be converted into a modern story that people can understand. Imagine you are telling this story to someone who has never heard it before and doesn't know what a priest, a Levite, or a Samaritan is. What are some characters and scenarios you can create to make the story come to life for someone in 2019? Think of examples of someone who may need a little extra help in life, maybe: its someone who has been teased in school, or a family who is having financial hardships. Put your creativity together to recreate the story of the Good Samaritan and what it would look like to be a Good Samaritan in 2019.

**Give each group 15-20 minutes to recreate the story using modern day examples and have them share it with the group.**

*"<sup>27</sup> He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."*

Take time to have a discussion about each recreated story.

- Was it difficult envisioning a story like this in today's society?
- Do good Samaritans still exist?
- What do you think stops people from being the Good Samaritan in the story?
- Did telling the story in a new and innovative shed light to the story in a way you never thought about before?

**TOTAL TIME: 25-35 Minutes**

### Additional Activity Option

#### Donkey Race (Middle Schoolers)

Materials: 2 large stuffed animals, 2 objects to be a buoy (2 tin cans, safety cones, etc.), tape to mark the start line on the floor Procedure: Divide students into two even teams Say, In the story of the good Samaritan the injured man was transported to the inn on a donkey. In this game, each team is racing to

#### Materials:

<p>- 2 stuffed animals - 2 objects for buoy - tape -</p>	<p>see who can get the injured animals to the inn. (Pass out the two stuffed animals. If you don't have any stuffed animals, you can use anything else, apples make it more challenging.) Let's form two lines. We are the donkeys that are transporting the injured animals so place your hands on your knees. Make your back flat. The player behind you will place the animal on your back. You must go to the village, marked with the buoy. Circle around it and then come back to your team. Load the animal on the next player. If the animal drops off, you must stop and put the animal back on before moving forward. The first team to have every team member move around the village and back wins.</p>
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<p><b>What does this mean for us today?</b></p> <p><b>READ – Luke 10:27</b></p> <p><i>“27 He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”</i></p> <p><b>ASK –</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does this mean?</li> <li>2. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? Why is this so important?</li> <li>3. How can we show that we love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind?</li> </ol> <p><b>Luke 10:27 lifts up how important it is to take care of one another, and how much God loves us seeing each other take care of one another. Despite the brokenness of the world, we can all contribute to showing God's love on earth. Sometimes are random acts of kindness can be the biggest example of God that people have ever seen!</b></p>
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<p><b>Closing Prayer</b></p>	<p><i>End with this or a similar prayer –</i></p> <p>Wonderful and Loving God, we give you thanks that you choose to use ordinary people like us to do extraordinary things in the world. Help us to slow down and not always worry about what we need, or what we want, or where we are going in life – but show us how to take time out to love our neighbors as ourselves. We experience the brokenness of the world every single day and we want to be your hands and feet in the world to show love, and compassion, and to prove that every single person matters to you. Remind us that we are deeply loved by you, and one of the ways we can show our gratitude for your grace, is by extending that grace to others! Amen,</p>
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