

**Group discussion** *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”*

Read Luke 10:25-37 aloud.

1. Who are the four men who dealt with the injured man?  
*Priest, Levite, Samaritan, and innkeeper.*

How did the priest & Levite deal with him?

Why did the priest & Levite by-pass the man?  
*In a hurry, touching a dead body would make me unclean so I could not serve at the Temple, could be bad guys nearby waiting for next victim.*

What do you do when you pass a stranded traveler?

2. Of the three travelers, who made the wiser decision – the Samaritan or the two who passed by?

What kind of risks was the Samaritan making?

3. How was Jesus like the Samaritan?  
*Outsider, not trusted by Jewish leaders, saw people as they truly were, took great risks to help, delivered the wounded from the ditch into a safe place.*

What did it cost Jesus to get us out of the ditch?

4. How is the church like the innkeeper?  
*We provide safety and nourishment for the wounded, but the resources come from Jesus, not us. When he returns, he will more than make up for any expense we incur.*

What were some risks that the innkeeper took?  
*No guarantee that the Samaritan would come back, then what? What if the man’s injuries turned out to be bigger than expected – how far should the compassion extend?*

What risks do we take when we make room for hurting people?

5. What are some ways that our congregation makes room for hurting people?

What are some ways we could do a better job at offering “a home for every heart”?

Be careful not to turn this into a gripe session. If someone mentions a problem, ask what he or she could do to improve the situation.

How could our group contribute to our congregation’s dream for the new year?

† **The million-dollar question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

When do you have opportunities to take risks to help people like the Samaritan or Jesus did?

When is your service more like the innkeeper, where you tend to the people Jesus brings your way?

Who are you nurturing to greater health?

## Resources

### Bible notes

- None – this text is easy to understand but hard to live!



December 6, 2009

## **LIFE Group Guide**

### **Luke 10 – Ready for action**

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme for this meeting: **Seeking opportunities to serve.**

We are looking at the story of the Good Samaritan this week. It was our text in February when we considered our 2009 theme of compassion. It also fits with our 2010 theme of making “a home for every heart,” but with a different application. We keep going back to the story, and it blesses us every time!

I’ve been updating LG rosters for a new database. Thanks to everyone who sent edits. Please keep me in the loop as you add new people. By the first of the year, I should have a new list of members without a group.

Also, if you have a new e-mail address or if you’re not getting these lessons via e-mail, shoot me a note at the address above. I’ll add you to the list.

#### Leadership tip:

Pray every day for group members, for group health, and for people to fill your empty chair.

**Kid-friendly activity.** *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Act out the story of the good Samaritan from Luke 10:25-37.  
Make a video recording and post it on YouTube!

Why did the two religious leaders fail to act?

Why did the Samaritan act?

How was Jesus like the Samaritan?

How are we like the innkeeper?

Who can we help to grow in strength and health?

**Relate** *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone’s spiritual pulse, and “break the ice.” No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ What comes to mind when you think of our 2010 theme – “A home for every heart”? What expectations does it create?
- ❖ What is one item from our 2010 plan that excites you?
- ❖ What is your favorite hotel?