

## Connect Bible Study - Peace Week 8

As a community we have been thinking this term about peace.

To finish off, we are going to begin asking ourselves how our mandate as peacemakers affects how we interact with the world around us.

Loving across divides is a key way we create peace. This is so well illustrated in the story of The Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:25-37; a Samaritan helping a man who was most likely a Jew, represents scandalous kindness between divided groups.

Let's begin by reading it together.

Before you read, take some time to settle your heart, and still your mind. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you, to perhaps highlight a line or a word as you read. When a line or word is highlighted to you, or stands out to you, you may want to write it down.

When you are ready, read the passage together aloud. Read it slowly and in multiple versions and as you read, think about these questions for discussion afterwards.

1. What strikes you most about this text?
2. Does anything bother or confuse you?
3. When have you been enabled to take the role of the Good Samaritan, reaching out to help someone **who didn't expect it**. How did that feel and what were the outcomes? Or maybe you have witnessed someone else behave this way... how has their life impacted yours or the world around them?
4. The samaritan had to push through multiple barriers to help that day. What barriers are there to helping others, particularly across a divide? Think broadly about what 'a divide' can be when discussing - it can be anything from a small personal argument to an historic cultural division.
5. Does anything you read change your perception of God or yourself, or what it means to follow Jesus?
6. How might we best respond to this passage in our daily lives?

Take some time to pray for one another.