



March 14, 2024

Social Time

Thanks to those who brought Treats!

Bible Study Business

Music – Led by Randy Amborn

- ELW 779 *Amazing Grace*
- ELW 325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*
- ELW 742 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List

Opening Prayer

Bible Study

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

Samaritans were a mixed race produced with Jews from the Northern Kingdom married with other peoples after Israel's exile. There was a deep hatred between the Jews and Samaritans.

1. What does this story teach us about our attitudes toward those who are different than we are and about people who we feel are inferior to ourselves?
2. Through this story what did Jesus teach us about grace?
3. If more Christians were to reach out to those around us as did the good Samaritan, how would our world be different?

A Collection of Attitudes – taken from the Life Application Bible

To the expert in the law, the wounded man was a subject to discuss.

To the robbers, the wounded man was someone to use and exploit.

To the religious men, the wounded man was a problem to be avoided.

To the innkeeper, the wounded man was a customer to serve for a fee.

To the Samaritan, the wounded man was a human being worth being cared for and loved.

To Jesus, all of them and all of us were worth dying for.

4. When addressing issues of racism which approach are you most likely to take?
Discussion, Exploitation, Avoidance, Financial Gain, Love, Sacrificial Giving
5. What does it take to respond with love and sacrificial giving?
6. What role does grace play in our care for others?
7. Healing and change of any injustice come largely by peaceful opposition, forgiveness, and the continuing work of reconciliation. How does Jesus encourage these things?

Book Discussion – Chapter 10

8. Where in our world are groups of people living in hatred of one another today?
9. If there is hope for healing these conflicts, what might that hope be?
10. Yancy described the meeting between Christians from West Germany and Poland (on p. 119). When they got to the Lord's prayer "forgive us our sins as we forgive..." it prompted them to realize their Christian responsibility to forgive. How does that part of the Lord's Prayer affect you?
11. The differing approaches of Germany and Japan regarding talking about World War II have had differing impacts on their nations ability to move forward (pp. 119 – 121). What lessons can we learn from this?
12. What do you think of Paul Tillich's idea that forgiveness is "remembering the past so that it might be forgotten"? (p. 122)
13. Abraham Lincoln pushed back against those who sought to punish the South for the Civil War. Reconstruction was intended to unite the United States. How well did that work? (p. 126)
14. How did you react to Yancy's personal story about growing up in a racist setting that was promoted by the church? (p. 127-131)
15. Yancy says that because it goes against human nature, forgiveness must be taught and practiced, as one would practice any difficult craft. Quoting Martin Luther King Jr. he said, "Forgiveness is not just an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude." (pp. 134-135) What greater gift could Christians give to the world than the forming of a culture that upholds grace and forgiveness? What is your response?
16. What can we learn from the pain of those who have suffered from racism or other kinds of prejudice or discrimination?

Book Discussion – Chapter 11

17. What impressed you most about the story, "A Home for Bastards"?
18. What do you think of Will Campbell's summary of the Christian message, "We are all bastards, but God loves us anyway"?
19. When have you felt illegitimate or unworthy?
20. What would it take to commit yourself to ministering to people like the Klansmen and racists that Campbell did?

For Next Time – Read Chapters 12 & 13

Birthdays

Wisdom from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, South African activist and recipient of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize:

Goodness is stronger than evil.
Love is stronger than hate.
Light is stronger than darkness.
Life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.

Closing Prayer (by Desmond Tutu)

Make me, O Lord, the instrument of your love,
that I may bring comfort to those who sorrow
and joy to those who are regarded as persons of little account.

Lord's Prayer

Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 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." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 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. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. 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. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Revised Schedule

Date	Chapter(s)	Title(s)
March 14	10 & 11	The Arsenal of Grace A Home for Bastards: A Story
March 21	12 & 13	No Oddballs Allowed Grace-Healed Eyes
March 28	None	Holy Week Break
April 4	14	Loopholes
April 11	15 & 16	Grace Avoidance Big Harold: A Story
April 18	17 & 18	Mixed Aroma Serpent Wisdom
April 25	19 & 20	Patches of Green Gravity and Grace