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STUDY GUIDE – February 2, 2020

Message Title: Caring
Teaching Pastor: Brian C. Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Check-in:

If you had to endorse a brand, what would it be?

There is certainly something God wants us to endorse. We will learn more when we get to the parable in today's discussion.

Pray:

Pray for our time together, that the Holy Spirit would help us to consider who we are becoming. That He would guide us as we ask the questions, "Who do I think I am?" More importantly, "Who does God want me to be?"

Get Started:

Think through the last week or two, in what ways have you "**shown up**" to give care to a family member, a friend and a stranger?

If you google Good Samaritan you'll find no shortage of stories. They usually read like this:

Choking Woman Saved By Doctor Filling in As Busboy

Arizona Man Saves a Life by Recalling Sitcom Scene

Alert Social Worker Rescues Young Woman Fleeing Kidnapper

A Hiker near Death in a Snowstorm Saved by a Stranger

If there was a Good Samaritan story from your life, what would the headline read? Has there ever been a time in your life when you were rescued from a near tragic or potentially harmful experience? And/or when has a person shown an unusual level of care? Share about those experiences now.

What lasting impact did they have on you?

Last week we focused on POSITIVITY. Pastor Brian said that we have on average about 10,000 thoughts a day. If 80% of them are negative then we become a self-fulfilling prophecy. The opposite is true. Positivity

impacts how well we care for others. On a scale from 1-10 how positive was your thinking this past week? 10 being the highest.

Watch & Discuss the Video:

We have most likely heard the story of the Good Samaritan many times. Try to listen to it as if it's the first time. Samaritans were outcasts, despised by the Jews. When Jesus shared that it was the Samaritan who gave aid to the beaten man, it would have been *shocking* to the listener. When Jesus asked the expert of the law, who the neighbor was in the story he had just unfolded, the man would not even verbalize the word "Samaritan." In other words he hated Samaritans so much he did not want to admit that he was the one that had done the right thing.

Unfortunately, over 2000 years later, many people still walk away from Jesus because of His command to **LOVE** your neighbor.

Read Luke 10:25-37

In Luke 10:26-28 what is Jesus' command?

What does he mean by "you will *live*?" What implications does this have for your life?

Read Luke 10:36-37.

On Sunday Pastor Brian said, "*You can't train yourself to **behave** that way. You have to train your soul to **love** that way.*"

What would it look like to train your soul? What steps can you put in place to be able to follow Jesus' challenge to "**Go and do** likewise," especially if it means loving those who are different than you? Or being loving toward those who hate you?"

Dive-in:

Look up the following verses to learn more about God's emphasis on care.

Read Proverbs 14:21

Read 1 John 3:17

Read Romans 12:11-13

Luke 3:11

Reflect:

Pastor Brian shared that care means **showing up, sacrificing and rescheduling**. He then followed God's prompting and did exactly that, he prayed and showed up, sacrificed and rescheduled. Allow some time to be still and listen for a prompting. You may choose to have a few minutes of silence to pray during small group. See if God prompts you to show up, sacrifice and reschedule. Does any person or situation come to mind? Consider sharing where God is leading.

Commit:

Follow through on the prompting above. How can we help you to be accountable to care for others and follow Jesus in this way?

Although the series is ending, keep asking the question, "Who should I be?" Make a commitment to keep focused on who you are becoming. God has already given us the answers. Continue to seek Him and ask Him to transform you from the inside out.

Pray: Pray for the group members and the commitments made above.