

Luke 10:30-37 (American Standard Bible)

<sup>30</sup>Jesus replied and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>And by chance a certain priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>And likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, <sup>34</sup>and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' <sup>36</sup>Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands? <sup>37</sup>And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

Discuss the following questions. If you are in a larger group, you may want to divide into groups of three for this discussion. You may then decide to report back to the larger group or to move directly to prayer time.

1. In Jesus' parable, who ignored the victim? What do you think were their excuses?
2. Why did Jesus use the Samaritan in this story?
3. Suppose you encounter someone that is in need. What kind of assistance could you provide?
4. Does your church have in place programs or services to care for the sick?
5. What barriers make us hesitate to care for the sick?
6. Are there certain kinds of health care that are easier for us to provide than others?

Prayer: "O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?" ("O Christ the Healer," UM Hymnal #265, verse 1.)