



THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN



**THE DIOCESE
OF SHEFFIELD**
Renewed | Released | Rejuvenated



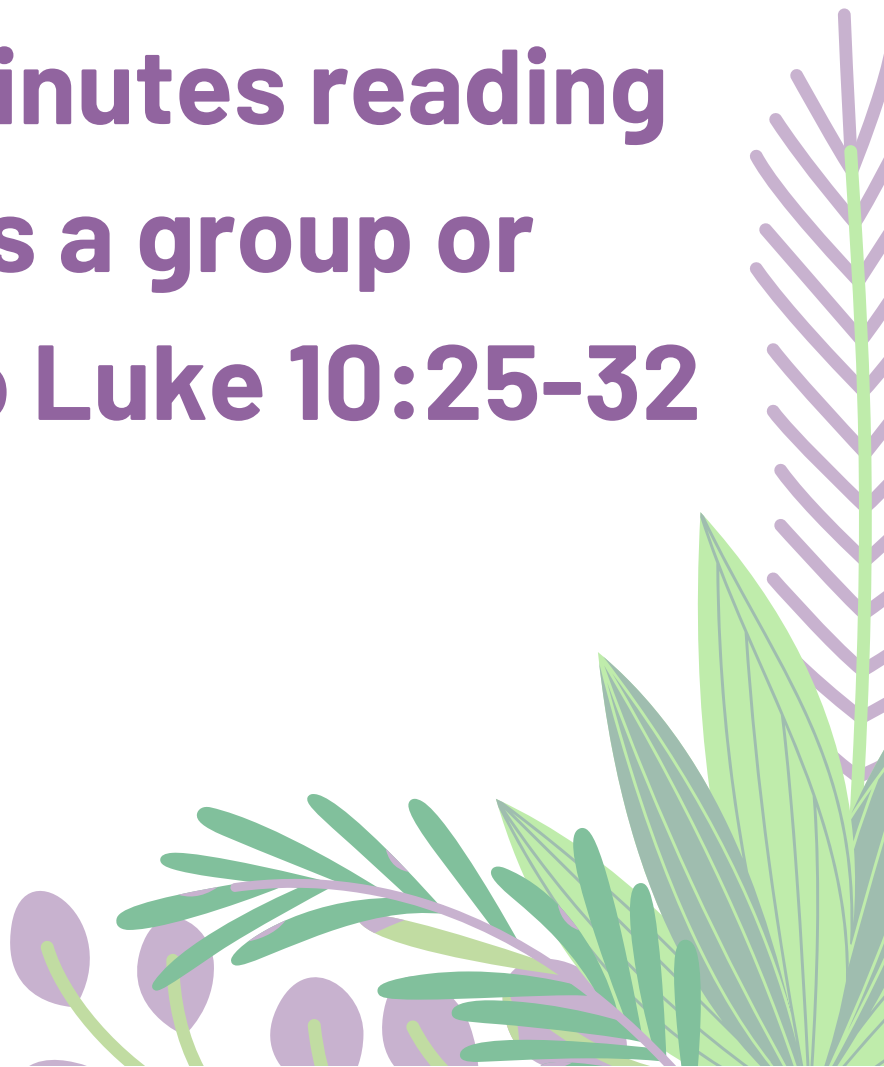
Prayer

Spend 5 minutes in prayer. Use this opening prayer as a prompt if you want a place to start.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see and open our ears to hear where you are in these scriptures. We pray your Holy Spirit living in us would reveal its wisdom to us and point us towards you and how we may be generous and live generously. Amen!

Reading

Before you discuss the questions on the next page as a group, spend 5 minutes reading aloud as a group or listening to Luke 10:25-32



LET'S *Talk*



Spend 15 minutes discussing the questions below

Think of the beaten man in terms of today's society. Who might they represent?

The priest and the Levite found it difficult to love this man by passing him on the street. Who do you find it difficult to love?

In what ways was the Samaritan generous and showed neighbourly love?

The Samaritan took a risk in helping the man on the street. What are the risks of helping someone today? Why is it essential for us to be willing to help others?





Reflection

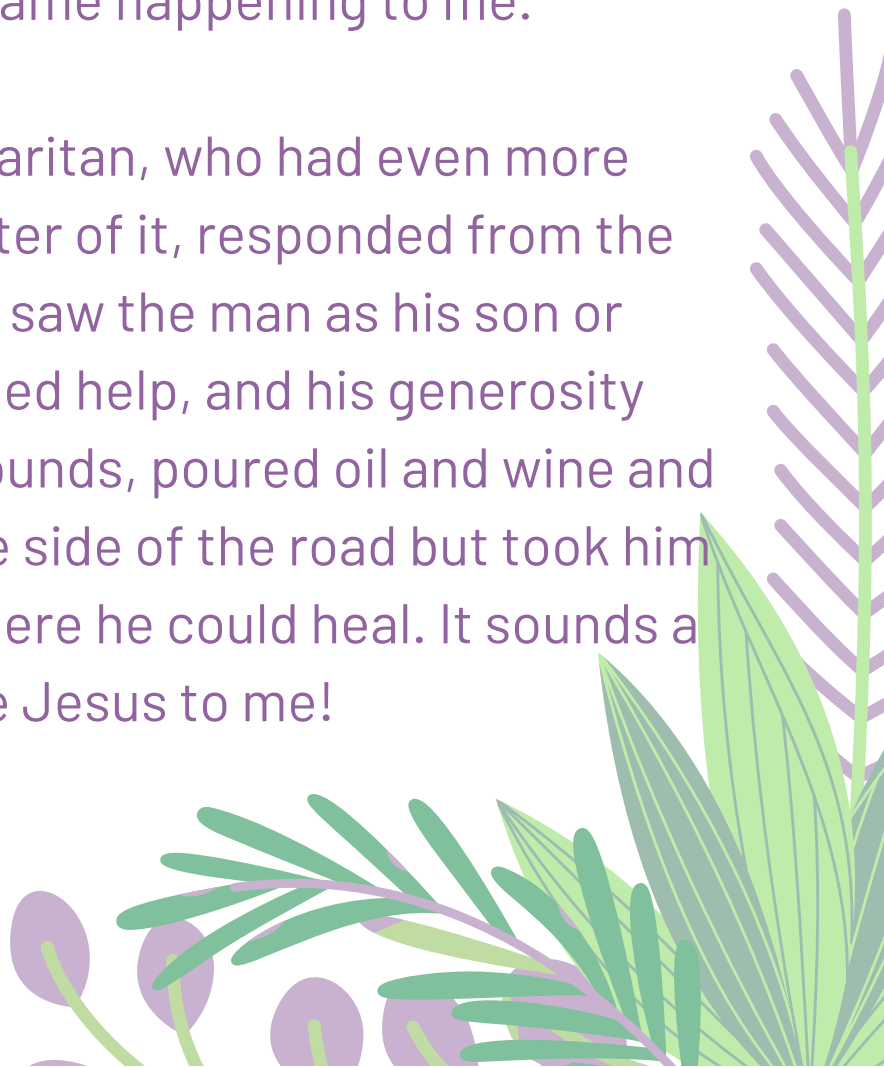


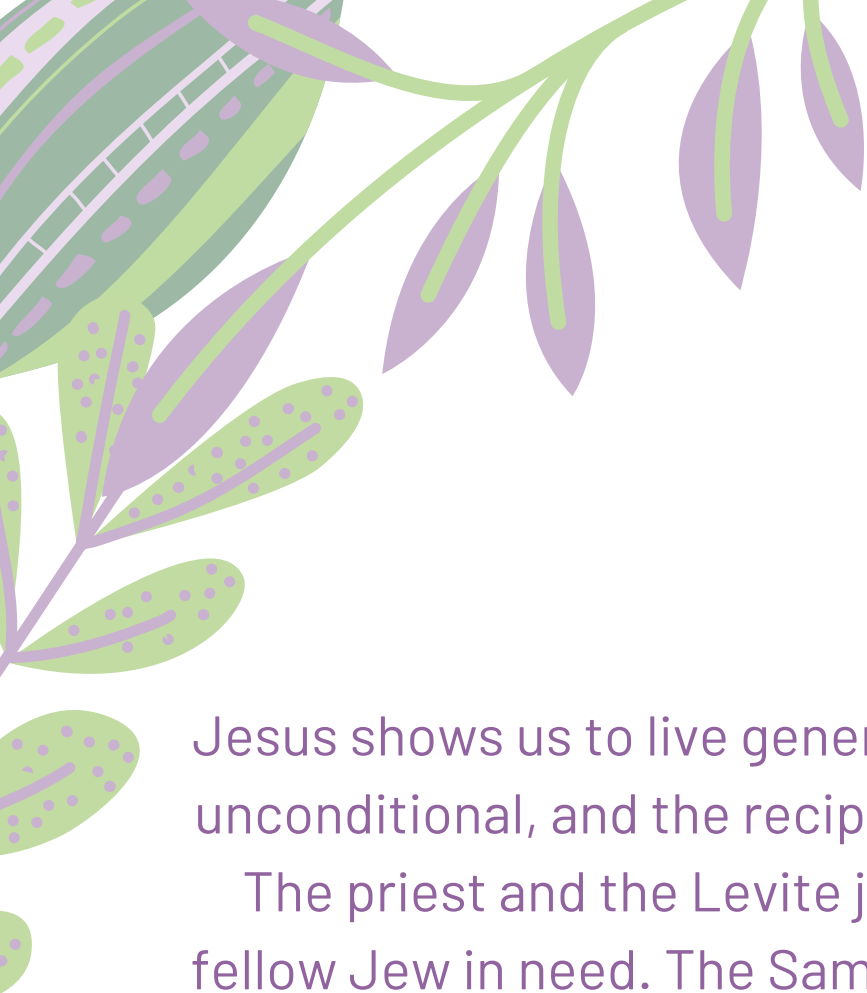
Spend 15 minutes in reflection as a group. As part of this time please read the reflection below and/or listen to the sermon from Hannah Sandoval (Light for Christ Enabler)

What does Jesus say about generosity in this parable?

Jesus teaches us that generosity should respond to the heart's feelings as well as the head's thinking – a holistic whole person response. Through this parable, Jesus is encouraging us to care for others deeply and have compassion for them. The priest and the Levite saw the man in need and perhaps started thinking of all the reasons not to help him out; he's not clean, I've got to get to the temple, I'm scared of the same happening to me.

However, the Samaritan, who had even more reasons to think better of it, responded from the heart's feeling. He saw the man as his son or daughter that needed help, and his generosity flowed – he tended wounds, poured oil and wine and didn't leave him on the side of the road but took him forward to a place where he could heal. It sounds a lot like Jesus to me!





Jesus shows us to live generously means our gift is unconditional, and the recipient should not matter.

The priest and the Levite just walked past their fellow Jew in need. The Samaritan generously gave to a man who, as a Jew, would have been his enemy from a racial and national perspective.

Through this parable, Jesus shows us that this heart feeling should extend to all his children, not just the easy ones to love, like family and friends. To fully follow Jesus is to live a whole life of worship and generosity like the Samaritan and not just go through the motions of religious thoughts, traditions and actions like the priest and the Levite.

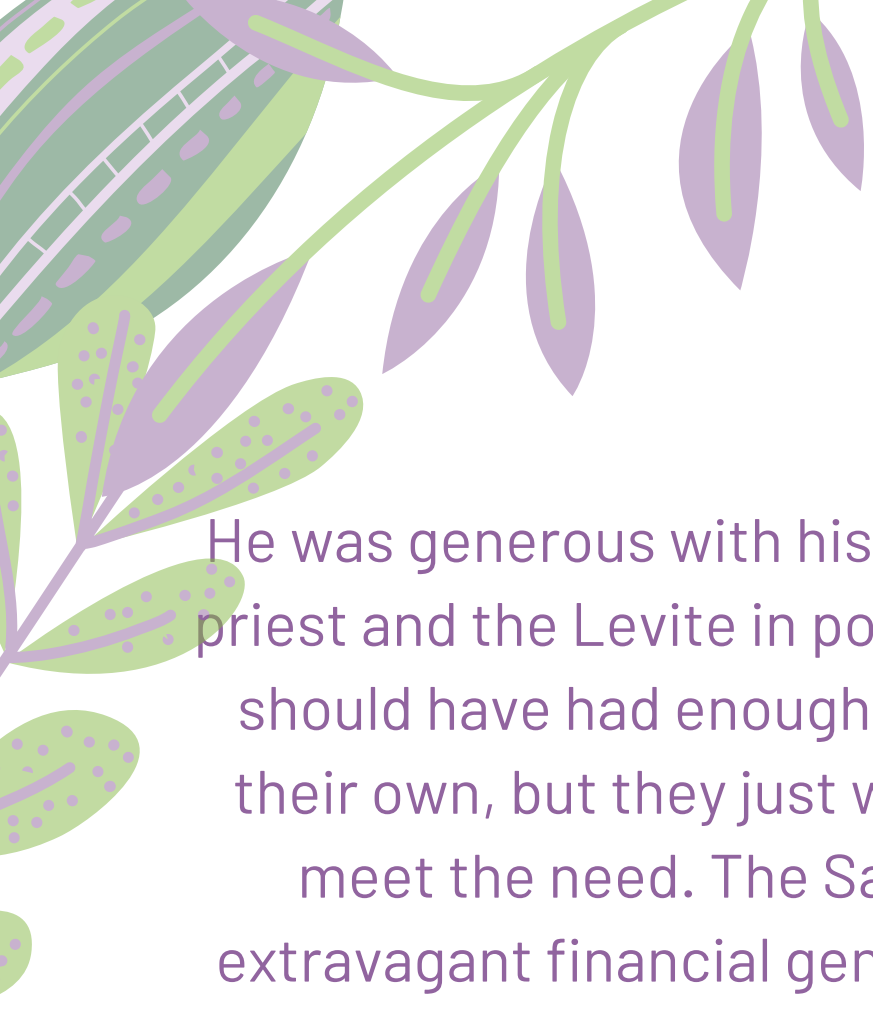
How might we respond?

The Good Samaritan shows us so many ways we can be generous. Let's focus on two specific resources – our time and our treasure.

The priest and the Levite were rushing around and couldn't spare a minute for this Jewish man, who was one of their own. The Samaritan, who may have been just as busy, gave this man a whole day. He spent hours caring for and tending to this man who was a stranger, an enemy even, and sacrificed the one thing you can never get back – your time.

**Are you too busy to notice others in need?
What part of your week could you give to
serve those less fortunate?**





He was generous with his treasure. Again, the priest and the Levite in positions of high office should have had enough left over for one of their own, but they just walked by and didn't meet the need. The Samaritan showed extravagant financial generosity towards the beaten man, who was a stranger. He didn't offer a few pennies to help the man get through the day. He provided two full days' wages to allow him to stay in a room and promised to cover any extra expenses. His wallet followed his heart's response of compassionate love.

**Do you use your money to help others in need?
Is there any person or organisation that might
benefit from your extravagant generosity
today?**

Prayer

Spend 5 minutes in prayer and gratitude. Use this closing prayer as a prompt if you want a place to start.

Lord Jesus, thank you for being the most remarkable example of showing neighbourly love and generosity. Teach us to be more compassionate and look out for those who don't necessarily fit our group or tribe. Encourage us to be generous with our time and treasure where they might need our help. Amen!

