



Won't You Be My Neighbor? | James Powell | 10.12.2024

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high and a low from last week.**
- **What's sustaining you right now?**

GROW

Welcome to week six of our *Uncommon* series. This week was a much-needed breath of fresh air as Pastor James slowed things down, helped us step back for a moment, and, for many of us, gave us permission to let go of everything we've been striving towards and holding onto so we can focus only on receiving Jesus' profound love for us.

In his message, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, James broke down the parable of the Good Samaritan from an uncommon perspective and helped us put the cart behind the horse where it belongs so we can experience the fullness of love, grace, and joy that Jesus has for us here and now in this life. As Christians, we are called to become more like Jesus, reflecting His

character in our lives. But before we can grow in Christlikeness, we must first receive His love for us.

Read 1 John 4: 9-12, Ephesians 3:16-19 NIV

- **What did James say that you didn't know you really needed to hear until this weekend? Explain.**
- **How did your personal experiences with love, both positive and negative, shape your understanding and acceptance of God's love for you?**
- **What are your takeaways from the parable of the Good Samaritan and the verses above when it comes to God's love for us and its role in our life/faith?**
- **When reading the Bible, it's really important to understand which Character we are. When you read, how do you fit yourself into the story? Are you the hero? Are you the Pharisee? Are you the broken, hurting individual in need of Jesus' love for you? What does your answer reveal to you about your relationship with God? Explain.**

M O V E

Often, we get so caught up in striving to live out our faith that we forget the most foundational aspect of our faith, which begins with accepting the fullness of Jesus' love for us in the midst of our pain and brokenness. Scripture reminds us in 1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us." Without fully receiving His love, our efforts to become more like Him can feel empty. Jesus said in John 15:9, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love." It's only when we rest in His love that we can truly begin to grow and be transformed into His likeness.

Read 1 John 4:19, John 15:9-12

- **Is it hard for you to let yourself be loved (by God and others)? Explain.**

- **Are you operating for love or from love? Explain.**
- **Do you need to receive, remember, or remain in God's love for you during this season? Explain.**
- **What would it look like for you to let go of everything you've been holding onto and focus only on letting God love you? What would it look like for you to find a moment each day this week and let yourself just... be (loved by God)?**

P R A Y

Thank God for His unconditional love demonstrated through Jesus. Ask for help in receiving His love more fully and extending it to others, especially those we find difficult to love, which is often ourselves.