



# WEEKEND RESOURCES | JANUARY 26, 2025

## Life is a Battle Between Good and Evil People

USE THESE QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE MESSAGE DURING YOUR STUDY TIME OR WITH YOUR GROUP.

**Message Recap:** The church can fall into the trap of seeing others as the enemy rather than recognizing the true spiritual battle. Polarization creates division, but the Bible calls us to love our enemies and resist the temptation to dehumanize those who oppose us.

### » Main Points

- Scripture: **Draw Bigger Circles** - Science: *Embrace the humanity of every individual*
- Scripture: **Take Pity, Not Judgment** - Science: *Seek to understand, not condemn*
- Scripture: **See the Whole Person, Not Just the Wound** - Science: *Embrace complexity, not simplicity*
- Scripture: **Build Bridges, Not Barriers** - Science: *Focus on what unites, not what divides*

### » Getting Started

- Read these two statements. "Life is a battle between good people and evil people." "Life is a battle between good and evil. And people can be both." Discuss the differences between these two positions in our culture.

### » Observation

- Read and reflect on [Luke 10:25-37: 9:51-56: Ephesians 6:12](#)
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses?

#### reachout

- Take some time this week to talk with someone about who the Samaritans are in your life. Maybe God is asking you to build bridges to them. The first step could be praying FOR that person.

#### growdeep

- Read Luke 9:51-56. Then, compare this experience with Jesus' story about the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Why do you think Jesus would choose to use the Samaritan as the compassionate character when he was just treated with hatred when he was in Samaria?
- What does curiosity look like in your life? Where is a place you need to stretch your personal preferences to understand someone else's views better?
- Empathy and compassion are different than sympathy. Look up each word and define them in your own words. How can you show empathy and compassion to others throughout the year?

#### partner with families

- As a family, plan to have different after-school conversations this week. Instead of asking them, "How was your day?" ask who they helped. Guide them to be intentional about their day and to be FOR others around them, on purpose.

### » Next Steps and Prayer

- Who is in your enemy group? Who do you struggle to love or extend grace to? Or to accept as the hero in the story? Who do you choose to demonize because they are different than you? Spend some time considering the "thems" in your life. Then, ask God to help you see beyond the labels and notice who they are throughout the week.
- Close by praying this prayer: God - In a world that desperately tries to cause division, help me to be known for what I am for and now what I'm against. Thank you for showing me what it looks like to help others. Help me to be a helper of people.