

Compassionate Care

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

D Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

H Hear the Word

Jesus tells a story to answer a question from a Jewish "expert in the law." The story prominently features Jews and Samaritans, who despise one another. As you read the story below, remember that the priest and Levite (v.31-32) are both Jewish and of the same ethnicity as the man who was robbed.

[Read Luke 10:25-37:](#)

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."



Discuss:

- Why do you think the priest and Levite chose to “pass by” the man who was robbed? What motivated their actions?
- The expert in the law describe the Samaritan as “The one who had mercy” (v.37). In what ways does the Samaritan demonstrate mercy in his response to the medical crisis?
- As you look at today’s healthcare system, what are the obstacles that prevent us from demonstrating mercy in the way the Samaritan did? What do you think it would look like to become a more compassionate and merciful nurse?

R Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* The Samaritan provided care for someone he was supposed to despise. Thinking back to your clinical experiences, who is one patient who you found difficult to care for? In what ways do you think you could have responded with more mercy and compassion? Pray with a partner that Jesus would fill you with compassion so you can be a good “neighbor” to every patient you encounter this week.
- *External:* Consider the cross-cultural implications of this story. The Samaritan crossed ethnic and racial boundaries to provide care for the Jewish man. He had mercy on this man because he saw him as a “neighbor,” despite their cultural differences. In the same way, we too are called to cross cultures to be neighbors to those who are of different ethnicities or cultures. The first step is to be a good listener and learner. Identify someone in your nursing school or workplace who is of a different ethnicity or culture as you. Ask if you can get to know them over coffee or a lunch break. During that conversation, ask questions to hear their story. You may choose to use questions like, “What is your ethnic background?” or “How do you think your ethnicity affects who you are today?” Listen to their story without judgment or self-condemnation – just be a good friend and “neighbor” to them!

Listening as Care

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H Hear the Word

In the story below, we see a contrast in how two of Jesus' followers demonstrate care for him. What can we learn from this story?

[Read Luke 10:38-42:](#)

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" ⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Discuss:

- How does Martha demonstrate care? How does Mary demonstrate care?
- How do you think Martha's focus on her job affected her interactions with Jesus?
- In what ways does Jesus' response to Martha surprise you? In what ways has Mary "chosen what is better" (v.42)?
- Applying to nursing practice, how do you discern when to listen and when to provide physical care? How can we balance these two nursing skills?

R Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Like Martha, we may be frantically running around fulfilling all our responsibilities...and forget to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him. How can you create space this week to choose the better thing? Schedule 5-10 minutes each day this coming week to pray and/or read Scripture to be more like Mary.
- *External:* In your clinicals this week, try to focus on listening to your patients, not just scrambling around to do all that needs to be done. Consider beginning each clinical with a short prayer to ask for Jesus' help to listen well to your patients.



Coming Alongside Others

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H Hear the Word

As you read the story below, pay attention to all the ways that God is at work behind the scenes. What are all the unusual circumstances and coincidences you can identify?

[Read Acts 8:26-39:](#)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.



Discuss:

- How do you see God's work behind the scenes in this story to bring Philip and the eunuch together?
- What do you notice about how Philip responded to the Spirit's leading in this story?
- How would you describe the spiritual condition of the eunuch prior to meeting Philip? How did Philip assess that condition and how did he act upon that?
- Based on this story, how would you describe the role of a spiritual companion in someone's life? What are they responsible for...and what is God responsible for?

R Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* How are you longing to grow spiritually? Where in your spiritual journey do you feel "stuck?" Like the eunuch, try to identify a spiritual mentor who could walk with you through your questions. Ask them to meet with you in the next couple of weeks to talk and pray together. (If you need help locating a mentor, ask your faculty advisor or another trusted Christian for suggestions.)
- *External:* Regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey, the Spirit can use you to walk alongside another person. Take a minute in silence and ask God: Whom would you like me to be a spiritual companion to? In the coming weeks, try to meet with that person, ask them about their spiritual journey, and follow the Spirit's leading in how to respond!

Servant Leadership

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H Hear the Word

Nurses serve patients in the basest of ways, with ADLs or cleaning up messes from sick patients. Yet nurses are also in positions of leadership by supervising staff, planning patient care, teaching, etc. How do we balance these extreme roles in our profession while honoring the Lord?

[Read Psalm 23:1-6:](#)

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- ² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
- ³ he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- ⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Discuss:

- The author of the psalm, David, is writing about how the Lord relates to him. Re-read the Psalm, this time imagining God saying these words to you personally. How does the Lord meet your needs by how he relates to you?
- Re-read the Psalm, underlining the verbs and descriptions of leadership qualities.
- Read it again, circling the verbs and descriptions of servant qualities.
- Now think of yourself in the role of nurse:
 - How do you use leadership qualities in your role?
 - How do you use servant qualities in your role?
 - How do these qualities affect the spiritual care you give your patients?



R Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* Which phrase in Psalm 23 connects most deeply to you today as you consider how you need God to relate to you? Set the phrase as a daily reminder on your phone, so that God's words in the Psalm can influence how you live your life this week
- *External:* The Lord combines the traits of servanthood and leadership in Psalm 23 – he is the ultimate servant leader. What servanthood and leadership traits do you want to practice this week in your clinical experiences? Try to identify a concrete way to live out each of these traits this week.