

+ Why do you think Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan?

+ How do you think the good Samaritan got his title?

**How does our relationship with the Holy Spirit affect our ability to embody God's goodness?**

+ How can we cultivate goodness in the world?

+ Which is more important: to be good, or to be right?

### **GROWTH:**

#### **JOURNAL PROMPT**

God, help me to live intentionally this fall as I learn more about your Holy Spirit and the attributes of a life rooted in you. Nourish me through my study of your word, community with my small group, and worship in church. Show me clearly the tasks, relationships, and work to which you are calling me. Amen.

#### **CALLING PROMPT**

God is inviting you to participate in his ministry by answering the unique call on your life. How can you actively respond to scripture and God's presence this week?

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Let's prepare for the week ahead, shaped by our time together today.**

Gracious God, we trust that you go with us in the week ahead. We are changed each time we gather to learn more about you and your Word. Please give us boldness to proclaim your good news in the coming week and bring us back safely together again in this community. Amen.



### **OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, help us to feel your presence during our gathering as a community today. As we do life together and learn more of your Word, help us to grow in faith. Help our time to be fruitful and the fellowship within our group to flourish. Thank you for the gift of today and of this small group study. Amen.

### **COMMUNITY**

**Time to build relationships: mix + mingle!**

+ What specific point resonated with you from the weekend's sermon?

+ If you couldn't attend, ask others in your group what stood out to them. (Note: Links to both video and audio versions of previous sermons can be found at <https://standrewmethodist.org/worship/sermons/>)

+ Where did you see God's presence in your past weekend?

**VIDEO – WEEK 6: GOODNESS  
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE NOTES**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**SCRIPTURE**

**A great starting place is always in God’s word. This week we are in:**

**LUKE 10:25-37**

*“<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

*<sup>26</sup> “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”*

*<sup>27</sup> 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.”*

*<sup>28</sup> “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”*

*<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”*

*<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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.’*

*<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”*

*<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”*

**SITUATION**

Goodness is a theme that arises from the very beginning of scripture. When God creates the world and the creatures that roam it, God calls it “good”. When God creates us humans, he calls us “very good”. It is God’s very nature to be the fount of goodness, and apart from him there is no good (Psalm 16). Therefore, we Christians are called to a higher approach in treating strangers, friends, family, and this world in a manner that recognizes their goodness from their Creator, God!

**QUESTIONS:**

**God’s goodness is an unending well that we can draw from.**

- + Is there goodness apart from God?
- + How do you know?
- + How have you experienced God’s goodness recently?

**We say that God is good. What exactly does that mean?**

- + In Genesis, God calls all creation, good and humanity very good. Why do you think there is a difference between “good and very good”?
- + Can material things be good? In what ways?

**Consider the story of the Good Samaritan:**

- + Are people either all good, or all bad?