



Welcome!

SERIES: Everything in Between
Today's Message: The Art of Not Passing By
Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Gracious God, we confess that we often live with our eyes fixed on our own path, measuring our lives by our schedules and our safety rather than by our love. We thank you for the story of the Samaritan, which reminds us that your kingdom is found in the places we usually try to avoid. Break our hearts for what breaks yours. Give us the courage to look directly at the pain we've been trained to overlook. Disrupt our comfort. Help us to see that our resources, our time, and our energy are gifts meant to be shared, not hoarded. Grant us the "holy inconvenience" of being interrupted by a neighbor's need. Expand our definition of "neighbor." Strip away the labels we use to distance ourselves from others. Remind us that every person we meet is a bearer of your image. Teach us to love without borders and to serve without expecting anything in return, reflecting the radical, scandalous grace you have shown us. In the mighty name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Share about a time a total stranger helped you out when you were stuck or stranded, and how that changed your perspective on "neighbors."

INTRODUCTION: We live in a world of extremes that often seem to oppose one another, but the parables of Jesus invite us to explore the nuance and complexity that makes up our lives. It's "in between" the extremes that we discover our dichotomies are often false and God is miraculously at work. Join Us this Lenten Season as we explore "Everything In Between" and learn to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and creativity. God is present "in between" empowering us to see a full spectrum of color, instead of just black and white. *Invite someone to share this series with your group.*

SCRIPTURE: Read **Luke 10:25-29:** 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?"

DISCUSSION:

1. **What stood out in today's message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today?
2. **The "Border" of Compassion:** In the text, the Priest and the Levite were likely on their way to or from religious duties. Sometimes, our "good" goals (getting to work on time, sticking to a budget, or even going to church) act as barriers to helping others. What are the most common "religious" or "responsible" excuses we use to justify passing by someone in need today?



Welcome!

SERIES: Everything in Between
Today's Message: *The Art of Not Passing By*
Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

3. **Redefining the “Neighbor”**—The Lawyer asks, “Who is my neighbor?” looking for a limit to his responsibility. Jesus flips the question by showing that the “neighbor” was the one least expected—a Samaritan. If Jesus were telling this story in our specific city or neighborhood today, which two groups of people would he cast as the “Jew” and the “Samaritan” to challenge our biases?
4. **The Cost of Stopping:** The Samaritan didn't just feel bad; he stopped, used his own supplies, gave up his seat on his animal, and paid out of his own pocket. Authentic help usually requires a “disruption” of our comfort or resources. When was a time you felt a “nudge” to help someone, but the potential cost (time, money, or safety) made you hesitate? How do we discern when to take that risk?
5. **Moving Beyond Proximity:** The traveler was a stranger in a dangerous place (the road to Jericho). Does our responsibility to help change based on *where* the person is or *how* they got into their situation? How can we cultivate a heart that prioritizes a person's need over their “deservingness” or location?

CHALLENGE: Ask yourself this week: “If I were the one lying on the side of the road, would I hope for someone like me to walk by, or would I be praying for someone better?”

SERVE: Look for the person everyone else is avoiding and offer them the “three Ts”—your time, your total attention, and a tangible solution to their immediate physical need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



WWW.MYSPBC.ORG • 804.643.4000

Welcome!

SERIES: Everything in Between
Today's Message: The Art of Not Passing By
Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

We Care!

NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE GRADUALLY REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org

SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org

Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org

Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org

Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org

Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: Lisa.Johnson@myspbc.org

Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org

Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.