



DEFINING SAFE
PLACES FOR US
JANUARY 7TH



EMBRACING THE
GRACE OF IT
JANUARY 14TH



BECOMING
SANCTUARY
JANUARY 21ST



CREATING SAFE
COMMUNITIES
JANUARY 28TH

SANCTUARY



EMBRACING THE PROVISIONS OF GOD'S GRACE

We watched last week as baby Moses drifted down the river to his Egyptian destiny. Similarly, we reflected on the ways God protects and covers us in Psalm 91. The scriptures describe moments when we are in grave circumstances without hope, but God shows up to keep us from falling. Sometimes we are so vulnerable, so in need, that all we can do

is accept the gift of grace. When we are desperate and at our wit's end, God stands to offer us a lifeline to save us. At the heart of this exchange is sanctuary. Sanctuary is a protection from the systems of death and destruction. We administer sanctuary not only to protect others from discomfort, but to save their very lives.

This week, we should reflect specifically on what it feels like to receive such provision. Additionally, we should consider what it is to embrace the real power of our own living. It stands to reason that the more we appreciate what it is to be truly set free and delivered from death, the more we understand Christ's gift of life. In the midst of this reflection, we hope that you come to understand more of what Sanctuary feels like and discern what it is like to give such sanctuary to another person as well.

STUDY GUIDE - Week Two

Reflect on your discussions and thoughts from last week. What was left undone or unsaid? Review your notes from Week 1 and finish those Study Questions before moving ahead.

Texts for Study

Read and contemplate the following scriptures. How do they inform your personal journaling and group conversation below?:

[Luke 10:25-37](#)

[Romans 8:9-11](#)

Luke 10:25-38 New King James Version (NKJV)**The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

27 So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,'^[a] and 'your neighbor as yourself.'^[b]"

28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. 31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed,^[c] he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' 36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Romans 8:9-11 The Message (MSG)

9-11 But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

PROVISIONS of SANCTUARY

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

From Last Week...

3. If you haven't already, discuss the affirmations in Psalm 91.
What is it like "under the shadow of the Almighty"? What makes a fortress strong enough? What are God's feathers like? How would a church do what God does here?
4. What makes sanctuary for YOU? Where does it exist in your inner life/home life/space/church/community? Take notes about this in your journal first.

For This Week...

Luke Scripture (page 2)

1. Can you think of a time in your life when you had no place to go or when you were in a state of being "half-dead"? *Share with a partner* your GRACE MOMENT. How was God's grace at work on your "road to Jerusalem"?
2. In addition to our rich discussion, we would like you to practice some movement. With your most dramatic flare and physical expression with a partner, *demonstrate what it looks like to give sanctuary*. Another pair demonstrate physically what it is like *to receive sanctuary*.
3. In your physical demonstration, where is Christ represented? How do we have sanctuary without the Christ?
4. In this example, the man on the road accepts the help of the Samaritan. Have you ever rejected help like this before you accepted it?

Romans Scripture (page 2)

1. For encouragement, read this Romans scripture together. What is the consequence of having Christ's life force with us?
2. How is God's GRACE at work in your life today? In the last week?
3. How is extended grace similar to offering sanctuary?