

TALK IT OVER

RIPPLE EFFECT | PART 1

31 MAY 2026

NOTES TO LEADERS

- This Sunday, we launched Nation Changers Month 2026, our annual opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need across the Upper Highway area. This year:
- 254 projects to get involved in
- 900 volunteers needed
- R1.6 million total cost (R1 million has already been raised)
- Encourage your LifeGroup to take this on together: Which project grabs your attention?
<https://nationchangers.app/>

SCRIPTURES

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 neighbour 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 neighbour?'

³⁰ 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. 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 travelled, 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 neighbour 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.'

START TALKING

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
- What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

1. Read Luke 10:25-37. Tim said Jesus flips the expert's question from "who is my neighbour?" to "will I be a neighbour?" What about this shift is so important?

2. Tim gave four ingredients of the neighbour Jesus calls us to be:

- not the one we would naturally interact with,
- the one in need,
- the one who is uncomfortable to reach,
- and the one who has been forgotten.

Which of these challenges you the most, and why?

3. The Priest and the Levite were chosen by Jesus in the story for a reason. Why do you think that is, and what can we learn from this?

START SHARING

1. Tim described a sustained impact as "mercy displayed, hope restored, continued love shown," more than a quick fix. Where have you seen, or experienced, the difference between a once-off act of help and love that stays the course?

2. Is there a "neighbour" God has been putting on your heart, perhaps someone outside your usual circle, or someone the world tends to forget? What would taking a step towards them look like?

3. Tim spoke to those who have looked to others for help and been let down, pointing them to Jesus as the true source of mercy. How have you found Jesus to be that source in your own seasons of need?

START PRAYING

1. Pray that God would move our hearts for our neighbours, and stir our faith into action rather than good intentions alone.
2. Pray for Nation Changers month, that as a church we would be the hands and feet of Jesus, and that the connections we make would have a lasting, rippling impact.

START DOING

Consider how you can get involved in Nation Changers month. Which project grabs your attention? Who can you invite along with you? How can you contribute in a meaningful way?

TALK IT OVER

SUMMARY OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, Tim launched our three-week Nation Changers series with a message titled "Why did the Good Samaritan cross the road?" It is a theme close to God's heart: the poor, the needy, the widow and the oppressed are mentioned over 200 times in the Bible.

Scripture constantly calls us to look beyond ourselves and ask how, through Christ, we can make a difference in others' lives.

The message centred on the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). An expert in the law asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus points him back to the law: love God with everything, and *"love your neighbour as yourself."* But wanting to justify himself, the man asks, *"And who is my neighbour?"* In reply, Jesus tells the story of a man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho who is attacked by robbers and left half dead. A priest sees him and passes by on the other side. A Levite does the same. But a Samaritan takes pity on him, bandages his wounds, carries him to an inn and pays for his care. Jesus then asks which of the three was a neighbour, and tells the expert, *"Go and do likewise."*

Tim unpacked this through three points.

1. Who is my neighbour?

We each have physical neighbours, and that question can stir up all sorts of feelings depending on who comes to mind. We might expect Jesus to answer by describing an ideal neighbour. Instead, He turns the question on its head. He is not asking who qualifies to be our neighbour, but whether we will be a neighbour. That is the heart of the teaching: not what we can get from a neighbour, but how we can be one.

So what does the neighbour Jesus describes look like? Tim offered four ingredients.

It is not always the person we would naturally interact with or feel most comfortable around. It is the one in need, the one who requires our mercy. It is often uncomfortable, calling us to cross a divide of culture, language, heritage or background, just as the Samaritan crossed the road to help a Jew, despite the hostility between their peoples. And it is the one who has been forgotten, the one the world deprioritises. As James reminds us, if we see a brother or sister without clothes or daily food and do nothing about their physical needs, our words mean little: *"faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead"* (James 2:15-17). The question is not who is my neighbour, but am I being a neighbour?

2. The ones who passed by

The priest and the Levite were exactly the people we would have expected to stop. They were religious men, descendants of Aaron and servants in the temple, who knew the law and its command to love your neighbour. Yet they passed by on the other side. Jesus chooses them deliberately because they represent the religious establishment of the day. Their example draws a sharp contrast between outward religion and inward compassion. It is not about what we give out, but about what is happening inside our hearts. To truly look outward, we need a revelation and a faith within that moves us to action. So the question is: what is the state of your heart? Are we acting to clear our conscience, or because everyone else is, or out of genuine mercy?

For anyone who has looked to others for help and been let down or hurt, Tim offered an encouragement: Jesus is the only true source. The mercy and compassion we see in the Samaritan (and far more) is freely available to us in Him. This story is a reflection of His undying love for us.

3. A sustained impact

What stands out in the Samaritan's response is that mercy did not stop at first aid. He did not simply pour on oil and wine and leave the man where he lay. He carried him to an inn, made sure he was cared for, paid the cost and promised to cover whatever more was needed. That is not a toe in the water; it is a commitment to lasting change. Tim captured it in a simple formula: mercy displayed → hope restored → continued love shown. Our involvement is not meant to be a quick fix but something sustainable and developmental, helping people get back on their feet and move into what God has for them. Our love moves us to action, and our action builds our faith.

This is the heart behind Nation Changers month. What began in 2016 with 50 projects exists to create a connection point with those who are less fortunate, partnering with NGOs across the Upper Highway area to make an initial connection that becomes long-lasting in its actions. This year's theme is the Ripple Effect: it starts with us and reaches far beyond us. As Tim closed, he left us with some questions to carry: Is my faith being moved for my neighbour? Who could I invite to join me? How can I contribute in a meaningful way? The invitation is simple, and the same one Jesus gave: go and do likewise.