

A photograph of a person's hands sifting flour from a metal sifter onto a table. Several round loaves of bread are scattered on the table. The scene is set in a kitchen or bakery.

# What Does It Take to Make Church?

135th Episcopal Church in Colorado Annual Convention

## Reflecting on Scripture, Friday, October 14, 1:30 pm

You are invited to gather around the table in a small group for a time of scripture reflection. This process should last about an hour. The following passage from the Gospel of Luke is offered for your reflection:

Luke 10:25-37

*The Message*

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. “Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?”

He answered, “What’s written in God’s Law? How do you interpret it?”

He said, “That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself.”

“Good answer!” said Jesus. “Do it and you’ll live.”

Looking for a loophole, he asked, “And just how would you define ‘neighbor’?”

Jesus answered by telling a story. “There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him, he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

“A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I’ll pay you on my way back.’

“What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?”

“The one who treated him kindly,” the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

### **A Process for Reflection:**

Step 1. Invite one person to read the passage aloud. Spend a few moments in silence as you notice what stands out for you in the passage today for your church.

Step 2. Which character in the parable is your church? Share what you notice, making sure everyone has an opportunity to share.

Step 3. Invite another person to read the passage aloud a second time.

Step 4. Share what the passage may tell you when you think about your congregation. Who is the traveler left by the side of the road in your church's surrounding community?

Step 5. Another person now reads the passage aloud a third time.

Step 6. How might your community respond to this passage? What prevents your church from helping the traveler? What do you need to feel equipped to care for the traveler?

Step 7. A fourth person reads the passage aloud a fourth time, quietly and prayerfully, as a closing prayer with time for silence. Close the group reflection by sharing prayers and saying together "Amen."