

# VULNERABLE

## THE LESSON: LUKE 10

*To preserve all that travel, all women labouring of child, all sick persons and young children;  
and to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives...*

*To defend, and provide for, all widows and orphans, and all who are desolate and oppressed,  
We beseech thee, good Lord.*

God cares deeply about those who are vulnerable, and his people are called to care deeply about them too.

When God gave the law to his people it contained some considerations that were very peculiar in that day and age. It took the trouble to set out protections for those who were vulnerable in that society, especially the poor, immigrants, widows and orphans. When we read the Old Testament prophets, we find that many of their accusations against the people were about this issue – they were mistreating the vulnerable among them, when they should have been caring for them!

Listen to how the Psalms describe our God: “he executes justice for the oppressed... gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down... The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless” (Psalm 146: 7-9). A concern for the disadvantaged is part of who our God is.

When we reflect upon the ministry of Jesus, we find that this deep concern for the vulnerable is evident. He touched lepers, rubbed shoulders with the poor and blessed the children. Moreover, he called his followers to embody this compassion as well.

## AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

*During this unit, we're going to focus our prayers on specific people in our world.*

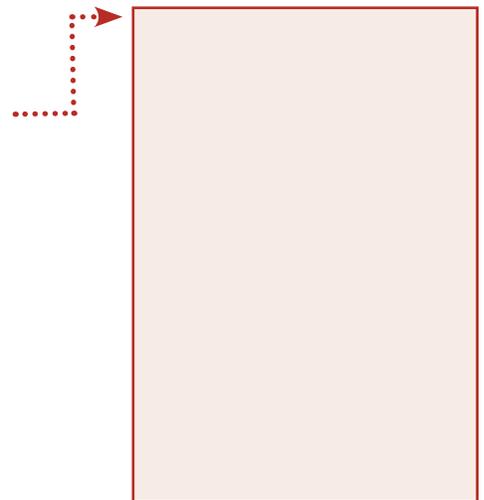
Each day this week, take time to pray for each of those named on your group's list. Ask God to care for them, and to help us to see the needs around us and to respond with his love.

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this prayer.

*Almighty God, who art afflicted in the afflictions of thy people: Regard with thy tender compassion those in anxiety and distress; bear their sorrows and their cares; supply all their manifold needs; and help both them and us to put our whole trust and confidence in thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(PRAYER FOR THOSE IN ANXIETY, BCP PAGE 54)



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## LUKE 10: **BE A NEIGHBOUR TO THE VULNERABLE**

<sup>25</sup>And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup>He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup>And he answered, “You shall 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 your neighbour as yourself.” <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup>But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise 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 journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?” <sup>37</sup>He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”