**What Made the Good Samaritan Good**

**Awakening to the Brutal Realities of Life**

**Online Questions**

**Chapter 1 Simeon’s Question**

1. Who are your neighbors? Do you owe every neighbor the same level of care and compassion?
2. Is inheriting eternal life a matter of beliefs or behavior? Is believing by itself enough? Is behaving by itself enough?
3. Are some of God’s laws more important than others? Which laws would be felonies to break, and which would be misdemeanors?

**Chapter 2 Jesus’ Answer**

1. Why did the Samaritan help the robbery victim in such a compassionate and costly way?
2. Why do we sometimes resist helping people in need?
3. Are there some people you have a personal sense of calling to help? Why is that?

**Chapter 3 Ephraim’s Story, part 1**

1. Have you ever had someone like Mordecai mentor you? If so, what did they do that helped you the most?
2. How would you complete this sentence: One of the hardest things I’ve had to deal with in my life has been . . .? What did you learn from the experience?
3. Overall, is your family a source of encouragement or discouragement when it comes to helping you through life’s rough patches? How have you leaned into them for strength or compensated for lack of support?

**Chapter 4 Brutal Realities One and Two**

1. What is your default mode when it comes to dealing with pain? How has it worked for you?
2. What does it mean to have the mind of Christ? How do we acquire this way of seeing life and death?
3. Have you ever felt grief for something you thought was your fault? If so, how have you dealt with it? Have friends or community played a role in helping you heal?

**Chapter 5 Ephraim’s Story, part 2**

1. Has your self-image helped or hindered you at work? In what ways?
2. Who has given you the most encouragement to be all you are meant to be? How did they help you?
3. Have you had occasion to help others get through difficulties you survived? If so, would you care to share some specifics?

**Chapter 6 Brutal Realities Three and Four**

1. Ephesians 2:10 says we are “created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Do you know of specific works he has called you to do? Are you doing them?
2. Are you aware of opportunities for growth that fear keeps you from pursuing? What would it take for you to move ahead?
3. What is something in your life you can’t change and should accept? What is something you can change and should?

**Chapter 7 What Happened Next . . .**

1. Can you think of instances when Jesus went beyond the Law of Moses in his teaching or behavior? Why did he do it?
2. If you are a Christian, how has your concept of Jesus changed from when you first became a believer until now?
3. Who has helped you during a time of need, and what can you do to say thank you?

**Afterword**

1. What role does keeping the rules play in our relationship with God?
2. Why do you think uncleanness is contagious while cleanness is not?
3. Are there some people you have considered “them” you should reconsider as “us?” If so, how would this change your behavior toward them?