

# THIS IS LOVE

## Meeting the Needs of Our City

**JULY 23, 2023**

Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate among America's large cities. What does it look like for us, then, to love our neighbor and meet the needs around us?

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### MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- There are a lot of needs in Philadelphia. Better than asking what we could do is “What should we do?”
  - In Luke 10:29, someone asks Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In other words, “Who exactly am I responsible to love?”
  - "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." | Luke 10:36-37
  - Stop worrying about who is or isn't your neighbor, and just be one.
  - When the Samaritan saw a need he could meet, he met it.
  - Open your eyes, and when you see a need, meet it.
  - More than 364,000 people in our city live in poverty, many of whom are children.
  - There are three ways to respond to poverty.
  - Provide relief—look for opportunities to help someone directly by meeting an immediate need.
  - Invest in development—give someone what they need to get going and succeed on their own.
  - Work towards reform and systemic change—look at the social system, our laws, and the way our city operates, and fight for justice and equity for every man, woman, and child.
  - Poverty is our neighbor, and as followers of Jesus, we're called to love our neighbor.
  - What can you do to meet the needs around you?
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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How much are you aware of / interact with poverty in Philadelphia? What is your typical response to it?
2. In what ways can you better open your eyes to the needs around you?
3. Providing relief, investing in development, and working towards reform—of these three ways to address poverty, what is something you can do right now to love your neighbor better? What is something you can do to better address poverty in the long term?