



# love where you live

## Love Where You Live

### Part 8 – Loving Our Neighbors on Day 3!

November 15 | Speaker: Roger Record, Youth Pastor & Mission Director

#### SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

<sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”  
Galatians 5:13-14

We will study from Scripture what real freedom looks like! What we do with our freedom, and how do we become truly free!

“I just want to stare at your beauty, God.”  
Psalms 27:4

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth  
and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5:11-14

When we worship like that, it is such a beautiful thing! The hardships of life seem distant and the love of God is so comforting and real. But it is hard to focus on God like that. It is hard to keep God first in our lives. Our culture is so much centered on what we, the individual, should have or not have.

When we look at ourselves, we always come up short. But we keep putting ourselves on the throne of our lives. Why? The secret of joy in Christ is to get off of selfie-mode, and look at someone better than yourself... GOD!

That's why so many people are unhappy, because they feel like they have to be in the center of everything and the one in control.

Contrast that with Jesus. Clear of His purpose, He always knew where true joy came from. He always put His Father first and others second. At the same time sharing about how He came so that we could have life to the fullest and have complete Joy (John 10:10, John 15:11, Hebrews 12:2). Jesus longs for us to taste the Peace, Love and Joy that comes when we love in this order.

#### **4 Action Steps:**

##### **1. God before phone daily.**

When you start your day with prayer and in God's Word, it is a re-orienting of your mind and your life toward the reality of the Kingdom of God. Every time you pray, something happens. Prayer is an all-involving way of life. As Christians, our lives are immersed in God. Prayer is the language of the Kingdom of God.

##### **2. Keep church a top priority on weekends.**

The reason why we have gathered here is not just so we can have more information, but that we will have our imaginations recaptured by the Spirit of God. It is not just an examination of what has happened in the past, it is an immersion in what is happening now. We will continue to submit to the powers of our God, and fully commit to partnering with our God to build and expand the Kingdom of God using the means of the Kingdom of God.

When we gather like this and worship we are responding to God's work among us. The work that redeems us and restores us. Our voices are not just our voices, we are joining all of creation in praise of our Creator. When we worship, we correct all of the misspoken and misconstrued words and arrange them in speaking the truth about our God and about ourselves.

##### **3. Pray before day.**

The day always seems to go better when it begins with prayer. Pray over your neighbor list both locally and abroad. Pray for our nation, our state, our country. Pray for your family and friends. Then take a few minutes just to sit quietly and listen. The thoughts flowing through could be from God!

##### **4. God before Mirror.**

After you have done the first three, take a moment to remove yourself and to put God on the throne of your life for the day. You will see amazing things happen if you live like this!

# PRACTICAL APPLICATION

*(for personal and small group discussion)*

1. Read Psalms 21:4 and Revelation 5:11-14. What are some beautiful things that get in the way between you and God? Does giving God full attention sound boring? Name a time when you have felt the closest to God?
2. Make a commitment to start your day with God. Try starting your day with the Bible, then prayer, and then avoid “The Mirror” by asking this Question: Who in my family or my friends or a co-worker is someone that I can serve today? Again, this isn’t a formula. Do what works best for you, but stay away from the phone and other distractions until you’ve spent at least a few minutes in prayer, the Word, and thinking of who you can serve today. Do this for two weeks and ask yourself how has this impacted you? Are you experiencing more of the reality of the Kingdom of God? To make this even more practical, make yourself accountable to someone for two weeks!
3. Make this holiday season a Neighbor/ Family serving season. Not just a receiving season. Know that none of us can go through this season (or any season) alone. We need community. Pray for God to make clear who you should reach out to this holiday season and serve. Everyone needs someone especially during the holidays! Text, call, or do a social distance get together and just love on someone!
4. Join us on **November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for the Congregational Prayer Meeting**. Details are at [damascus.com/events](https://damascus.com/events)
5. Pray about ordering a “**Be the Light**” box by emailing [robinn@damascus.com](mailto:robinn@damascus.com). If God pushes you to order, dive in and live in Day 3!

## NOTES

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