

Love Your Neighbor: Week 1

Life Questions

1. What lessons did you learn from your time in the Word this week?
2. Who did you share the gospel with?
3. What has God done in your life that's encouraging over the past 2 weeks?

The Greatest Commandment

Read *Matthew 22:34-40*

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, **and** with all your mind. It's hard enough to love God with all of our heart, soul, **or** mind - let alone all three of these. In these verses Jesus shows us what should drive everything that we do - loving God. The struggles we have with following Jesus everyday all come down to other idols in our life that we elevate to the same level as God.

God demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus to die for our sins. Not only did God send Jesus for me, but He also sent Jesus for my neighbor; the person who cuts me off on I-285, the person who votes for the other political party, etc. If we truly love God with our heart, soul, and mind; then we must also love others. The more we understand the love God has for us, the more natural it is to love others.

Discussion Questions

1. If you took an honest look at your life, what commandment does your life say is the most important? What barriers keep you from making loving God the most important commandment in your life?
2. Loving God with our heart, mind, and soul requires us to see other people how He sees them. Think of a recent time when you did not show this love to someone else. How can you show God's love to this person?
3. Why do you think it's hard to love others the way we love ourselves?
4. What keeps you from seeing other people the way God sees them? What are changes you can make to start seeing others and loving them the way that God does?

Application Step

Examine the barriers in your life to truly loving God with your heart, with your soul, and with your mind. Share these barriers with your spouse, roommate, friend, or community group so you can hold each other accountable. After sharing these barriers with each other, brainstorm ways to overcome them and choose a barrier to focus on this week. As you gain a greater understanding of the love God has for us, share this love with the people you encounter throughout the day.