

SERMON: Living the Great Commandment
SERIES: Love Where You Live
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

June 3, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 22:34-40.

³⁴ *But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.*

³⁵ *And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. Love Your God.
- II. Love Your Neighbor.
- III. Loved By God.

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God. What does this tell us about God? What does this tell us about us (humanity)?
2. Jesus equated loving our neighbors to loving God. In what way is the second command (love neighbor) the visible expression of the first command (love God)? Read our Fighter Verse, Galatians 5:14. Discuss how Paul could say that the love of neighbor sums up all the law of God.
3. Jesus quotes Leviticus 19:18- Love your neighbor as yourself. Why is self- love important? How can it be twisted or dangerous? In what way could learning to love others also be a way to love yourself?
(Note: Love of self can sound anti-biblical, but it is actually important. If we live our lives in self-loathing we will never be able to love others without it being from neediness or manipulation. Our self-love, however, must always be rooted in God's love for us.)
4. What if we started by taking Jesus' command seriously and loved our actual neighbors? Take some time as a group and fill in the "Who Is My Neighbor" chart (below). What are some ways you can love your literal neighbors this summer?
5. The greatest commandment is love God and neighbor, but the greatest truth is God loves you! How does the cross demonstrate God's great love for us? Why is Jesus as our substitute even more loving than Jesus as our example? How does the love of God empower our love for our neighbors?

Pray: Rejoice in God's great love for you. Confess your lack of love for your neighbors. Ask God to let the truth of his love for you empower your love for your neighbor.

