

Session One.

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

- Do you have anyone you consider “adopted family” or “chosen family?” Who? Who do you know them?
- What is the most unusual way you’ve ever met someone?
- Have you ever done something kind for a stranger or has a stranger ever done something kind for you? What happened?
- Do you know any of your next-door neighbors? What are they like?
- We can love our family, pets, friends or pizza. Are these the same kinds of love? What are some things you love?
- Who is your neighbor (in the biblical sense)?
- How do you love your neighbor in the 21st century?
- Have you ever felt unexpected love from someone? What happened?
- Have you ever gone out of your way to love a... friend? acquaintance? Stranger? What happened?
- How do you most like to show love? How do you most like to receive it?
- Who in your life makes you feel loved?



Let's Read

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Read the scripture below and think about the kind of love Jesus is calling us to, then answer the questions below together.

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" 27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'[a]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'[b]" 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

1. In this story there are a few characters who play the role of a neighbor, the Samaritan and the inn keeper. Are their roles the same or different?
 - A. What does it mean to be a 'good Samaritan' for a friend at school? A family member?
 - B. Who are the inn keepers for physical injury? Mental health? (people who have the resources/ training for long term care?)
 - C. Do you ever need to be the Good Samaritan and the Innkeeper? Is it ever a bad thing to be both?
2. Is being a 'good neighbor' different when in support of a friend/ parent/ acquaintance/ stranger?
3. Plan between the two of you to each do something intentional for a neighbor in the coming week. (It could be paying for someone behind you in the drive through, writing a letter to someone you haven't spoken to for a while, or something else. Be creative!



Session Two.

WHAT IS GOOD?

- What makes a movie good? What makes a meal good? What makes a weekend good?
- Do you think people tend towards being good or evil? How do you know?
- What do you use to determine what is “good”?
- Do you ever worry about whether something is the right thing to do? What do you do to help you decide?
- Would you rather do good, or be great? Why?
- Do you think there is one interpretation of good?
- Is it okay for something that is usually good to sometimes be bad? Something bad to be good?
- Good, bad, or in between?
 - Desserts. Broccoli. Spiders. Homework. Therapy. Mondays. Camping. Minimum wage work. Video Games. Social Media. Church. Winter. Summer. Dentists. TV. Sports. Divorce. Re-wearing clothes between laundry days. Mornings. Staying up late. Etc.
 - Are there any of these where one answer isn't always true?



Let's Read

The Woman Caught in Adultery

Read the Bible story below then answer the questions after.

1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."



1. In the story above, the woman is brought before Jesus as a test to see if he would disagree with the laws written in the Old Testament. Jesus shocks them with his answer handing judgement to God rather than to the accusers...
 - A. Do you think it would be a good thing or a bad thing for ALL judgments to be passed to God rather than resolved between people/ in a court room?
2. According to Jesus in this story, forgiving the woman was more 'good / right' than following the law of Moses. Do you think there are ever times in your life where following the rules was worse than breaking them?
 - A. Does this ALWAYS mean the rule was a bad one?
3. Do not commit adultery is one of the ten commandments, yet Jesus forgives the woman in the story completely, does this mean God's unconditional forgiveness renders the 10 commandments obsolete? Why or why not?
4. If we are always forgiven, why bother doing what is good?

Session Three.

WHEN / HOW DO YOU PRAY?

- What do you know about prayer? What is it for?
- When do you pray? Do you have any time of day you always pray?
- Have you ever known someone who prayed more or less than you/ your family? When did they pray? When didn't they?
- What does it look like to pray?
- Do you feel people today pray too much, not enough, or just the right amount?
- Are there ways you can connect with God without folding your hands and bowing your head?
- Why do you pray? To ask for help? To thank God? To look for guidance?
- Who taught you to pray? What do you remember about when you first learned to pray? Did they teach you any specific prayers?



Let's Read

The Lord's Prayer

Read the Lord's prayer as it is written in Matthew, how is it familiar, are there parts that are different from the Lord's Prayer you know?

"Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

may your name be revered as holy.

10 May your kingdom come.

May your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**13 And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.**



- Some communities Pray this Prayer with different words, is one way more right than another?
- Jesus gives this prayer as an example of how to pray, not as the only way to pray,..
 - What are some other prayers you know?
 - Is there a wrong way to pray/ what do you feel is the right way?
- Does prayer need to involve a spoken word? Can thinking about someone be a prayer for them? Can listening to a song be a kind of prayer?
- Why do people pray for things if God is all knowing?
- Do you think God answers prayer? Why or why not?

Session Four.

SERVING

Take some time to touch base – talk and listen to one another. Do all the questions below or pick ones that interest you. The focus is conversation not completion. If you get led on another path of conversation, go with it!

- What are the issues that concern you today?
- If you could make any difference in the whole world, what would it be?
- A person who comes to mind when I think about someone who serves is...
- What is a belief or cause does your mother care about? Your father? Your grandparent?
- What gets in the way of making life better for people who need help? What gets in the my way?
- When something is unfair for another person I...
- What is a favorite experience you have had in caring or serving others?
- How does faith affect what you do or don't do when your see someone begging for money? See them in need?
- When I have money, I give, save and/or spend most of it by...
- What is it like for you to ask someone for help? Who do you ask for help?
- An ability, talent or knowledge I have for making a difference for others is...
- Some of the things I do to serve are...



Let's Read

God's Story of Serving

Pick a few stories from below and read them together...

Hebrews 13:1–2

Matthew 25:31–46

Luke 18:15–17

Luke 20:1–4

John 13:1–17

John 13:31–35

John 21:15–17



What makes a person great?

- Write down the names of people you would describe as “great”.
- What makes a person great?
- **Read Mark 10:43–45**
 - Jesus tells us that true greatness requires service to others.
Some of the ways others have served me recently are...
 - Why does service make someone great?
 - I have served others by...
 - I find it hard to serve others when...