

LOOP Leader Study Guide
WE LOVE YOU - WEEK 1
Pastor Tim Chambers

Key idea: Love God completely. Love your neighbor as yourself. These are the greatest commandments.

Key scriptures: Matthew 22:34-40; Romans 10:15b; Ephesians 1:1-2; Acts 1:8; John 14:15; Luke 10:25-29; Luke 10:30-37



Discussion Questions:

1. An expert in religious law asked Jesus a question designed to trap Him. **Read Matthew 22:34-40.** How would an all in commitment on our part to these greatest of commandments help us reach others for Christ? React to Pastor Tim's statement: **It makes sense that a great commitment to the great commandment will bring great contentment.**
2. Pastor Tim said that love is the foundation of our walk with Christ and that without love there is no walk. As Paul wrote in Romans 10:15b --**How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news. Read Ephesians 1:1-2.** Many of us during this time of enforced social isolation may actually be finding ways in which we can let the love of Christ shine as we encounter our neighbors. How have you shown love to them? (bringing in trash cans, cutting their lawn when you cut yours, just talking together, expressing gratitude to essential workers you meet while shopping, etc.) Has anyone shown such love to you? How does this make you feel when it happens? Loving God completely and loving our neighbors as ourselves does three things, Pastor Tim said. It moves us from isolation to belonging, from fear to curiosity, and from assumptions to reality.
3. Pastor Tim challenged us to play a game called neighborhood bingo. Draw a layout of your block and see how many neighbors you know. How would you do? What can you do to improve your neighborhood awareness? What would be the benefit? Pastor Tim said the opportunity to change the world is right outside our front doors. **Read Acts 1:8.** We need to take the great commandment seriously and learn to be in relationship with our literal neighbors.
4. It's time, Pastor Tim said, for us to get back to the basics of what Jesus commanded: Love God and Love others. **Read John 14:15.** React to this statement: **If we get the great commandment right, following the rest will come naturally.** If we love God most, we will love others best. The story of the Good Samaritan is a shining example of what happens when God is the love of your life. **Read Luke 10:25-29.** This seems like an honest questions on its face. But Pastor Tim said the questioner was actually looking for a definition of neighbor that would give him a loophole to avoid this whole neighbor love thing. Don't we all look for loopholes? Here is Jesus' answer to that question: **Read Luke 10:30-37.** What are some ways we can also "go likewise"?
5. Who is your neighbor? Are you moving too fast to notice that your neighbor in need is right outside your front door? Perhaps it's even someone you don't particularly like. Should that stop us from showing Christ's love? We need to find ways to show our neighbors that we love them. What are some ways during this time that we can show love to our neighbors?

Close with this prayer:

Jesus, please help us to learn extravagant love, and be just like you.

Help us to understand what that really looks like.

Change, shape, and mold our hearts so we can become like you in all our ways.

Let your love take over our hearts so we can learn (with baby steps) how to pour that same love out to our neighbors.

God, you know that we cant do it on our own.

We're hopeless on our own, but with you...we can learn to love.

We can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens us.

Be with us God. Apply this word to our hearts.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Talk to your LOOP about:

• **WE LOVE YOU WEDNESDAYS**

- On Wednesdays, we're going to flood our communities and social media with ways we are saying to those around us, WE LOVE YOU!
- Let us know what you're doing to show those around you that you love them
 - Post something to your social media
 - use the hashtag #weloveyoufsc
- Let's take back social media and our communities with the love of Jesus!