

LOOP Leader Study Guide
WE LOVE YOU - WEEK 2
Pastor Tim Chambers

Key idea: Are you showing C.A.R.E. to your neighbors?

Key scriptures: Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:30-32; Luke 10:33-37; James 2:14-17; Luke 10:25-28



Discussion Questions:

In week 2 of We Love You Pastor Tim continued to lay out different ways we can live out the mission of Fresh Start Church: to connect the love of Jesus to the heart of our community by loving those nearest us geographically, our immediate neighbors.

1. In the gospel of Mark Jesus taught God's most important commandment. **Read Mark 12:29-31.** Jesus says that Israel must listen to his words about the greatest commandment. Pastor Tim said that listening/hearing is not just auditory. True hearing of the word is about obedience. What happens when we truly hear Christ and are obedient? (we become not just hearers of the word, but also doers. We practice what we hear. Our obedience shows our love for God) The commandment says that God is not just one of the things we love with everything we have. He is the only thing we love this way.
2. Pastor Tim said it is important for us to note that Jesus put loving God with our all and loving our neighbor as ourselves on equal footing. Which is easier for you: loving God completely or loving your neighbor as yourself? Explain. Listen again to the story of the good Samaritan from Luke's gospel. **Read Luke 10:30-32.** When people know we are Christians, they watch how we live our lives. Pastor Tim said if we want God's story to be heard then we'd better live a life that's worthy of being watched. What do you think he meant by that? Do you believe your life is telling a story that other people want to watch and hear? How could you begin to do this better?
3. **Read Luke 10:33-37.** Pastor Tim gave us four ways we can become a better neighbor to those on our block. Discuss each one.
 - 1) Show **Compassion**. How can we show our neighbors we care? (learn their names and their history) How can you show compassion to your neighbors during this time?
 - 2) Show **Awareness**. How can we become more sensitive to the needs of our neighbors? (pray for them but realize that something you might do just could be the answer to that prayer) **Read James 2:14-17.**
 - 3) Take a **Risk**. Don't bank your love. Spend it on others. How is showing God's love to others risky? What might it cost you?
 - 4) Be **Evangelistic**. Speak with your neighbors about God as a satisfied customer. Tell them how you use and benefit from being a child of God.

These four ways to show neighbor love form the acronym C.A.R.E.

4. Do you feel you don't have time to love your neighbor? If you don't, Pastor Tim said, your life is out of balance. Is your life in balance? (discuss or leave rhetorical) There are three life balancing principles we should use. Discuss as needed.
- **Keep the main thing the main thing.** Set the Greatest Commandment as your priority. Don't let others set your priorities for you. How can we sometimes make other things the main thing? How do we get back on track?
 - **Eliminate time thieves.** Examine what you're spending your time on. Be the master of elimination and chop away those nonessential things until your priority becomes loving God and others. How have you evaluated what you spend your time on during this time?
 - **Allow interruptions.** Allowing interruptions creates space in your life to notice others when they are in need. Pastor Tim said that almost every miracle Jesus did required an interruption or an inconvenience. Ask yourself if you live at a pace that allows me to be available to those around me? Do they perceive that I have time for them? Are the things I'm doing more important than taking the Great Commandment literally?
5. Making these changes takes discipline. But, Pastor Tim said these actions will change the world, **Read Luke 10:25-28.** Why do you think Jesus answered this man's question about eternal life with love God and love others? What do you think Jesus meant when he told this man in verse 28, "Do this and you will live!"? How does loving God and loving others result in truly living? When we do this our lives will become more healthy, hopeful. and humble, and, above all, more Christlike.

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!