

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

Key idea: We are to love our neighbors simply out of obedience to God.

Key scriptures: Mark 12:29-31; Acts 2:47; Matthew 25:34-40; Luke 5:27-32



WE LOVE YOU

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Discussion Questions:

1. We have been learning we are called to love God completely and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus outlined the greatest commandment in Mark 12. **Read Mark 12:29-31.** Pastor Tim reminded us that it's not love God or love our neighbor, it's both. As we learn to love God, the natural response is to love our neighbor. Have you noticed this occurring in your own life as you've grown as a Christian? Please share. Pastor Tim taught that love is the most excellent way (1 Corinthians 13:1). Love is the proof of Christ in us (John 13:34-35). Love is the greatest (1 Corinthians 13:13). And that love was and is God's motive (John 3:16).
2. When we love we naturally meet together, learn together, serve together, take care of each other, and are sincere with each other. This is the kind of love that will not go unnoticed. It will produce favor in all people. It did so right from the beginnings of Christianity. **Read Acts 2:47.** What is it about the brotherly love of Christians that people find attractive?
3. Showing love to your neighbor is actually more than loving your neighbor. **Read Matthew 25:34-40.** When we love and minister to our neighbor's needs we are also doing it to God. Does this teaching alter the way you view those in need around you? Please explain. Have you ever held back offering help to a neighbor because you didn't think you had enough to offer? Are we supposed to let this perceived reality stop us? Why not? (we are to trust that God will provide what's needed. Holding back robs us of the chance to see God do a miracle).
4. When the tax collector Levi was called to become a disciple of Jesus, he dropped everything and joined Jesus. Then he invited his neighbors over for a block party to celebrate his new life with Jesus. **Read Luke 5:27-32.** If you were to have a similar block party would you really know everyone you would be inviting? How do we move from stranger to acquaintance to relationship? Pastor Tim gave seven tips.
 - 1) *Find a way to introduce yourself.* How could you do this during this time of social distancing?
 - 2) *Develop curb appeal.* Make your home's exterior look nice. Why would this be important?
 - 3) *Have a pet protocol.* What did Pastor Tim mean by this?
 - 4) *Organize a block outreach like a food drive to build community.* How could you do this?
 - 5) *Don't take part in neighborhood conflicts.*
 - 6) *Don't be the neighborhood gossip.*
 - 7) *Make yourself available.* Discuss ways you could do this during this time.

5. Author Dave Runyon wrote in his book the Art of Neighboring, *“Love your neighbor as yourself. Could it be that simple? I remember thinking, Jesus is a genius! He is asked to pick one commandment that is more important than all the others. And he shares something that would change the world, if only every person who believes in Jesus would actually do it.”*
6. **Pastor** Tim posed this question: Why should I be a good neighbor? What should our motivation be? Finish these sentences:
 - I love my neighbor as myself because...
 - We want to be a neighboring church so that... If you have the wrong motivation, people will know that they are a project or part of a program not seen as a person. And if your neighbors are prospective church members rather than people might we give up on having a relationship if they don't cooperate with our motives soon enough. Or will we stop loving them when the finally go to church?
7. So how should we love our neighbors? Discuss as needed.
 - We love our neighbors because we are Christians, not because we are trying to make them Christians.
 - We love our neighbors because neighboring is an act of obedience which Jesus accepts as love to him.
 - We don't just love our neighbors so they will go to church.
 - We are to love our neighbors simply out of obedience.

As theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote: The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community. But the one who loves those around them will create community. How will you unleash the love of Christ that is within you to love your neighbor?

What have you already done or are planning on doing to show love to your neighbor?

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!

For Wednesday, May 6th we are planning a Mother's Day parade. The details are below...

- Join us between 5 pm & 7pm at Fresh Start Church to celebrate Mother's Day
- Have extra fun by having the kids decorate your car for the parade.
- Every mom will receive an over the top amazing cupcake (chocolate and vanilla available)
- All kids present (maximum of 3 per car - let us know if you have an exception) will receive a bag of candy
- The first 250 moms will receive a \$25 gift certificate to a local spa.
- For every mom that shows up we will donate \$1 to the Foodbank. They have great buying power and can purchase \$8 worth of food for that amount!

So Mom...show up to represent but stay in your car! This will be a drive in event and you may remain parked in our lot as you enjoy your sweet treats!