

## Sermon-Based Small Group Preparation

For the week of October 5, 2014

**“Who Is My Neighbor?”**

Sermon Series: *Who Is My Neighbor?* (week 1 of 3)

Mark 12:28–31

» Please look over these questions *before* your Small Group meeting «

### Getting Started

10 minutes

- 1) What is your favorite autumn activity?

#### Key Concept

We are all called to love others as God has loved us — not just with feelings and words, but also with actions.

### Into the Bible

20 minutes

Read Mark 12:28–31 (all scripture references are in the Additional Resource)

- 2) In this passage, a teacher of the law asked Jesus a question in order to test him. If you were to stop at verse 28, how do you think Jesus would have responded to this teacher of the law?
- 3) Paraphrase Jesus’ answer to the teacher of the law? What response did the teacher expect from Jesus?
- 4) What do you think Jesus is trying to teach his followers (both then and now) by his response to the question in Mark 12:28?

### Digging Deeper

40 minutes

- 5) Perhaps it is easier to follow Jesus’ command to love others, more so at certain times and in certain circumstances than others. Share with the group concrete methods you rely upon to remain obedient, even when it does not come naturally.
- 6) Jesus quotes Leviticus 19:18 when he replies, “Love your neighbor *as yourself*.” Implicit here is the notion that you must love yourself. For some, this might come quite naturally. But, for others, this may be very difficult. However, receiving God’s love for you — and loving yourself as a result of this love — is essential to being capable of loving others.
- 7) Contextualize this passage into your own life. Then, determine what does it mean to “be a *neighbor* to” someone else?
- 8) Pastor Harrington speaks of “love” in terms of “intending the good of another — as God defines good” [or, stated otherwise, in terms of “wanting them to become the best person that God has made them to be”]. What are some “first steps” we can take towards “intending the good of another” when that person has been living a life contrary to God’s will? Please explain.

Read Luke 10:25–37

9) Having an extroverted or introverted personality affects the way we reach out. How might God choose to love others through you, not in spite of your personality but precisely because of it?

10) Choose one or two “neighbors” you feel called to show love to this week. What are some concrete ways that you can express love to these people before your LIFE Group meets again?

## Sermon Notes

October 5, 2014

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Mark 12:28–31

Pastor Tom Harrington

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Key Scriptures: Mark 12:28–31; Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Romans 13:9–10; Matthew 6:10; Leviticus 19:18; 1 John 4:19; Proverbs 3:28; Proverbs 14:21; John 14:2–3

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**Group Prayer**

20 minutes