



DISCUSSION GUIDE

ALL IN - Loving Your Neighbor, part 1

GETTING STARTED

Who has been your best and your worst neighbor in your life? Why?
What responsibility do you feel towards your "church family" neighbor?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
How can we often dismiss loving our neighbor only as something we do to those farthest from us rather than those closest to us?
According to Jesus, what is at stake if we fail to love our church family well? (John 17:20)
What connection is there to loving our brothers and sisters in Christ (unity in the body) with the unity of God in three persons?
What are ways we misunderstand "love"? (dave mentioned three: love is a feeling, love can't be controlled, we like the idea of it without the sacrifices required) Why is it important to understand, that biblically, love is a choice?
In what way is loving our neighbor connected more to taking action, rather than feeling something? (James 1:22; 1 John 4:11-12)
In what way can you and I take responsibility to love our church family (neighbors) well? (encourage each other, give generously, serve cheerfully and get together)

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Mark 12:28-34]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

Why did the teacher of the law come over to speak to Jesus? (12:28)
What significant question did the teacher of the law pose to Jesus? (12:28)
How did Jesus respond to the man's question? (12:29-31)
How did Jesus use Scripture in answering the question put to Him? (12:29-31)
What did Jesus say was the second most important commandment? (12:31)
How did the teacher of the law respond to Jesus' answer? (12:32)
How did the man speaking with Jesus show that He understood God's heart? (12:32-34)
What does God value more highly than sacrifices and offerings? (12:33)
How did Jesus evaluate the teacher's response to Him? (12:34)
What did Jesus mean when He said to the teacher, "You are not far from the kingdom of God"? (12-34)
How did the surrounding crowd react to this conversation? (12:34)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What do you think motivated the teacher of the law to question Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus quoted Scripture to answer the question instead of replying with His own words?

How familiar do you think this passage Jesus quoted was to the teacher of the law?

Why do you think the teacher added a note about offerings and sacrifices to what Jesus had said?

What does Jesus' treatment of this teacher of the law tell you about His own character and view of people?

What do you think it means to "love your neighbor as yourself"?

How can we practice the greatest commandment in everyday life?

What modern-day religious practices would be like the burnt offerings and sacrifices to which the teacher of the law referred?

Why is wholehearted love for the Lord more important than outward actions that Christians practice today?

How does a person's love for God manifest itself in everyday life?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in these passages?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?