

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Who Is My Neighbor? Jimmy Evans

Focus Loving others as we love ourselves is the only answer to racism, social injustice, and division. As a nation we are searching for answers and understanding for the division in our nation, but to find the answer, we must deal with the issues of our hearts.

Fun What silly, unique, or uncommon talent or ability do you have?

Review Key Scriptures: Luke 10:25–37

1. The Good Samaritan

We are living in a time of racial division and unrest. Pride, prejudice, and hate have plagued mankind since the beginning of time. The story of the good Samaritan reveals that our neighbor is everyone. We are all sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, and goodness doesn't have a color. Mercy doesn't have a color as the story of the good Samaritan illustrates. There are good and bad people of every race, and to think otherwise is deception. The good Samaritan was compassionate, faith-filled, generous, and God fearing.

2. The 10 Promises of Isaiah 58

Racism and prejudice violate the Golden Rule. God reveals 10 promises in Isaiah 58 that He gives to those who treat people with compassion and dignity. God will promote you and supernaturally heal you. You will be right with God, and God will supernaturally protect you. God will answer your prayers, and His presence will be with you. The Lord will guide you, provide for you, and give you strength so you will flourish in all seasons and be blessed.

Group Dynamics Idea Now is a great time to get outside and enjoy sunshine and fellowship! Plan a picnic, a group hiking trip, or a pool party for your small group. Having fun together outdoors will help comfort and relieve stress during these difficult times.

Discuss

1. Have you ever felt prejudged by another person without them getting to know you first? What was this experience like for you?
2. Read Mark 12:31. Who are the neighbors in these passages? Who is your neighbor?
3. If someone were to ask you what it means to love your neighbor, how would you answer them?
4. Read Matthew 5:44. Does Jesus ask us to love all people or just the ones we like? Why do we need to love our enemies?
5. What would it look like for us to love our neighbors and our enemies? How would we do this in everyday life?
6. Is there anyone you can reach out to in love? What comes to your mind when you think about loving someone different from you?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- Racism is the opposite of love.
- God asks us to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- God promises to bless us when we love and dignify others.

Prayer Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word. Help us turn our hearts toward those who are not like us. Please help us daily to be ready to love and include those who, though they may seem different from us, are actually our brothers and our sisters. Give us strength and wisdom to stand on Your promises and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Periodically call your group members to touch base with them to see how they are doing and if they have any prayer needs. Connecting with members outside of group time is a great way to build relational equity.