

Taking the Great Commandment Literally

WILL YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? | MAY 11/12, 2019 | PASTOR J.C. HEIDEN | VARIOUS TEXTS

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

Are you loving God with everything you’ve got? (Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Luke 10:25-29)

- An ancient command and an enjoyable command.
- We talk about what we love and we love what we talk about.
- We talk about what works.
- Rekindle your love for the Lord – Share evidences of God’s grace in your life with others every day.

Are you loving your neighbor as you love yourself? (Leviticus 19:18; Luke 10:25-29; Galatians 5:14; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Matthew 6:9-13; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 28:18-20)

- An ancient command and an enjoyable command.
- Who is my neighbor and what is Love?
- Keeping short accounts with the Lord.
- Participating in God’s master plan – Ambassadors for God’s kingdom.

How to Love Your Neighbor (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Thessalonians 2:8)

- The power of proximity.
- The power of predictable rhythms in your life.
- The power of knowing your neighbor’s name.

10 WAYS TO RELATIONALLY CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Spend relational time with a friend, neighbor, or co-worker who doesn’t know Jesus and get to know some of his or her story. Here are several ideas that foster relational connection.

1. Share a meal: Invite someone over for dinner, go out to lunch with a co-worker, or have a picnic with other parents and kids in the park.
2. Play a sport together: Tennis, soccer, golf, hockey, basketball. . .
3. Plan a play date with your kids’ friends and their parents: Meet up at the park, invite them over to your house, or go to the public pool. You could even plan an outing together at the local zoo or children’s museum.
4. Exercise together: Invite someone to go on a jog or walk with you, go to the gym together, or join in an exercise class.
5. Spend time outdoors: Hiking, fishing, climbing, bird-watching, skiing, or anything else where you get to take in fresh air. Go on a walk around your neighborhood.
6. Play a game together: Board games, card games, trivia games, or video games.
7. Have a group hang-out: Fire-pit night, wine night, poker night, or a book club.
8. Ask for help! Ask people to help you with your yard, house, or car. If your friends have a skill, invite them to help you!
9. Go out in your town or city: Go to a museum, art show, concert, or new restaurant.
10. What would you add?

10 QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU LISTEN TO OTHERS

Missional work starts and ends with relationship. Conversations create the backbone of healthy relationships. However, we’ve found, many people struggle to have meaningful conversations and take the posture of a curious listener with the other person (and not ourselves) at the center. We’ve found these questions to be a helpful place to start, and encourage disciples to engage at least one conversation a week with questions like these.

1. What was good about your week? Why? How did it make you feel?
2. What are you thankful for from this past week?
3. What has brought you the most excitement lately? Why?
4. What was difficult about your week? Why? How did it make you feel?
5. What are you learning these days?
6. What has made you feel worried or frustrated this week? Why? How did you deal with it?
7. What has made you feel sad this week? Why? How did you deal with it?
8. What was growing up like for you?
9. What advice would you give me? I’m struggling with _____.
10. What would you add?

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