



Sermon Discussion Guide
Love Thy (Socially Distanced) Neighbor: Make Your Life Shareable
Sunday, August 23, 2020
Based on Pastor Jason's Sermon

Introduction

We're continuing in a series called *Love Thy (Socially-Distanced) Neighbor*. In this series we're thinking through what it would look like to really love our neighbors during this pandemic season, and take steps that will help introduce them to Jesus. In this second lesson, we learn that we can connect with others using our own spiritual growth.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. How easy is it for you to share about your faith when the opportunity presents itself?
2. What stops you from developing more relationships with non-Christians?

Hear God's Story

1. Read Matthew 9:35-38. What can we learn about Jesus based on these verses?
2. A massive part of Jesus' own spirituality was His desire to share God's message with others. What's one practical way you can do this as part of your spiritual life with those who are outside of the too-common "Christian bubble"?
3. It can be easy to slip into using Christian-lingo that non-Christians can't relate to. What are some things you remember or practice that can help you talk to others in ways they can relate to?

Create a New Story

1. This week, in your own spiritual habits (like prayer, Bible reading, attending church) note a few things you are learning that you could easily share with neighbors in conversation. What are some practical ways to do this?
2. Try making a spiritual connection with one neighbor who is not a Christian. Do you have an initial gameplan on how you can do that this next week?

Further Studies: The Heart of Matthew 9:35-38

In Matthew 3-9 we see Jesus teaching and bringing the Scriptures to life, healing the sick and the blind, and casting out demons. When we get to the end of Matthew 9 it's already been established to His disciples that He is God and has full authority and power. Immediately afterward in chapter 10 Jesus gives the famous "commissioning" of His disciples, and sends them out to be His representatives and spread the good news.

Why is this context surrounding 9:35-38 important?

It's in this context, between the teachings and actions of Jesus, and the commissioning He gives to those who follow Him, that an important hinge can be seen between the two parts. This hinge in the text is found in 9:35-38, and gives us a glimpse into Jesus' heart and the heart we're called to filter our own outward actions through.

DISCUSS

1. Briefly review what went on in 3:1-9:34, then read 10:1-8. What can you identify within 9:35-38 that acts as a powerful transition between what's before and after it?
2. In 9:36 we read how Jesus "felt compassion" when He looked out over the many people. The original Greek word there meant to be moved to one's innermost being. What does this tell us about the heart of Jesus?
3. How can this heart inform how we represent and share the good news of Jesus, and thereby join in the commission He gave His disciples in 10:1?
4. What's one thing that prevents you from embodying this compassionate heart as you engage with others who are far from God?
5. Disciples of a teacher in Jesus' day were assumed to be apprentices to carry on the teacher's work one day for themselves. We see Jesus embracing this understanding in the movement of the text. What are some steps you're going to take this next week to carry on Jesus' compassionate teachings in fresh ways?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com