

**GOING DEEPER**  
July 11 & 12, 2020

**Title:** Reimagine Summer: Neighbourhoods

**Teacher:** Sarah Stanley

**Text:** Matthew 22:34-40

**Discussion Questions:**

**This week, we explore the opportunities to be a neighbour and what it actually tells us about loving God. We are reminded that we don't have to look far to find our neighbours; they are quite literally a wall away, whether you're looking at their house through your window or sharing a wall of an apartment building.**

**LOOK AT THE WORD**

**Though the chapters and verses were not created by the author, the way Matthew 22 is organized is striking. Jesus begins by sharing about "the kingdom of heaven". Then the Pharisees try to trap Him with a question on taxes, the Sadducees try to trap Him with a question on resurrection, the Pharisees try to trap Him again with a question on the greatest commandment and Jesus finishes with His own question.**

*One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Matthew 22:35-36*

Why is it important that Jesus is asked to identify the most important law of Moses, by the teachers of the law? What are the Pharisees trying to do here?

What is the difference between a law you have to obey and a command that is given?

The teachers of the Law had developed 613 mitzvot laws to govern behaviour and Jesus sums up the entire law and prophets in 2 commandments. Compared to the human approach of "more laws = more clarity", what does Jesus' approach emphasize?

**Take the time and organise the 10 Commandments, found in two different locations (Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5), around "Love God" and "Love Neighbour".**

In doing so, how can you see that "The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."?

**LOOK INWARD**

**Loving your neighbour can have it's obstacles. Sarah asked this week: what invisible walls do I put up now that keep me from reaching out?**

Take the time to write down your walls, deterrents or obstacles that need to be overcome.

**Jesus' answer places "love God" as the first commandment and "love your neighbour" as the second.**

If there is significance to the sequence Jesus uses, how does the way you love God impact the way you love your neighbour? AND....

What is your next step in loving God that will help you love your neighbour well? (see 1 John 3:16-18, 4:19)

**LOOK OUTWARD**

**Jesus had this beautiful posture of keeping His eyes fixed on His Father, while also seeing very clearly the needs of the people around him.**

Sarah gave a list and asked "what could it look like for us to reimagine our neighbourhoods this summer?"

The list included *creating space, being present, taking the long view, authenticity, intentionality, creativity, sacrifice, telling your story.*

Which of these characteristics resonates with you most? Is it an area of strength? Or a place of growth? How would you lean into it this summer?

**Sometimes because Jesus gives us a commandment, we make “loving our neighbour” our task. And sometimes, instead of us focusing on the transformation in our own lives in order to love our neighbour, our neighbour becomes our project.**

How does authenticity change our posture towards our neighbour? How does it keep us from making our neighbour “our project”? Which one of your neighbours would benefit from your authenticity and your story?

**SO WHAT:**

*“...the kind of love that God created and demonstrated is a costly one because it involves sacrifice and presence. It’s a love that operates more like a sign language than being spoken outright.” – Bob Goff*

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**NEVER STOP PRAYING**

- Giving thanks for an opportunity to rest, renew and restore with a vacation this summer
- For connection and that you would find people to encourage each other, pray together and help each other take your next step in following Jesus
- For Darcy and the team at Helen’s Acres as they feed the city
- For a vaccine for COVID-19 and an effective treatment plan for those who are infected.
- For our new elders – Kristin, Kendall, Terri & Tom
- For our meal team team as they serve 400 meals per week
- For our leaders in Ottawa as they deal with the debt because of COVID-19