

CULTIVATE

CULTIVATE: WEEK 1

April 17 & 18, 2021

CULTIVATING GROWTH IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

The greatest commandment is two-sided: Love God & Love Your Neighbour.

TEXT

Matthew 22:34-40

TALK ABOUT IT

1. **How will you love your neighbor this week?** How will you start a conversation, have a check-in, drop off a gift/goodies, or make a phone call?
2. **Who will you choose?** Choose someone: school, work, or community, in your family, or say, God surprise me.
3. **What are you asking God for? Pray:** God, will you break down the walls I've put up? Reveal in my heart any prejudice. Give me the strength to love.

LOOK TO THE WORD

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. (Matthew 22:34)

Synagogues had formed all over the land of Israel and academies had been established to train rabbis who could teach & judge throughout the nation.

- Why would Jesus, as religious teacher, challenge other religious leaders?

CULTIVATE

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" (Matthew 22:35-36)

- In considering the whole law, why would it be important for leaders to know the "the greatest commandment in the Law"?
- As teachers and judges of the land, what would the teachers of the Law prioritize as the greatest commandment?

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

- Why would Jesus have mentioned heart, soul and mind?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. What other "parts" of this commandment do you think Jesus would want included in His reference?

NOTE: Jewish teachers use allusions to passages to refer to the entirety of teaching in that section.

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22:39)

- When asked for one commandment, why would Jesus give two?
- Read Leviticus 19:9-18. What other "parts" of this commandment do you think Jesus would want included in His reference?

"All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:40)

- Why do all the law and prophets hang on these commandments? Why not the 10 Commandments (given by God in Exodus 20)?

LOOK INWARD

Scott claimed that "God is moving. God is working. We just gotta jump in on the action."

- Where do you see God moving & working in your life right now?
- Not seeing God move? What do you think "God moving and working" looks like?
- In your life, what would it look like to "jump in on the action"?

CULTIVATE

It's through loving our neighbour, who we can see, that we express our participation in love for God who we have not seen.

- Read 1 John 3:18. How has God gifted you skills and passions to love others?

"God said I love you first."

- What do you feel or experience when God says, "I love you"?
- God declares this love by the sacrifice of His son. How are disciples called to respond to this sacrifice?

Personal Practice:

Pray for God to reveal where He is working and how you might jump in on the action. Spend some time in your apartment's foyer, in your front yard or on your driveway. How is God at work there?

LOOK OUTWARD

Scott said, "It's like somehow Jesus knew the neighbour thing was going to be pivotal... and difficult."

- Who is your most difficult "neighbour"? (Remember, neighbour is simply 'other' so it could be a family member, co-worker, local neighbour, etc.)
- Why are they difficult to love?

"This very message Jesus said 2000 years ago STILL has the power to change our world."

- There are so many possibilities for God to work. Whose life are you hoping is most changed by the words of Jesus?
- How do you think God might ask you to join into this life change?

SO WHAT?

"Your neighbor is anyone you see whose need you are in a position to meet."

- Haddon Robinson

CULTIVATE

NEXT WEEK'S READING

Cultivate: Week 3

Read: Colossians 1:3-6

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Praise God for the ways He is working and inviting us to participate!
- Praise God for the chance to share hope with our community, offering our facility for use to Interior Health
- Praise God for the continued hope that IH volunteers and Compassion Meals bring to our community
- Pray that God would open our eyes to see MORE of what He is doing
- Pray that God would cultivate growth in our personal lives and our neighbourhoods
- Pray for our NextGen team as MSY & HSY continue to meet in person and our Trinity Kids team plans for summer camps
- Pray that a spirit of repentance & forgiveness would rise up and lead to spiritual hunger in our church family

RESOURCES

JOZ'S FULL INTERVIEW

In Cultivate Worship, we heard Andrew interview Joz (pronounced "Y-oh-ss"). We couldn't fit the whole interview in the service, so find it at youtube.com/trinitychurchkelowna

CULTIVATE RESOURCES

Find guides to your next step in Scripture, Prayer, Worship, Story & Service at trinitykelowna.ca/resources and click on the Cultivate drop-down tab