



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

4/22/2018

Jesus calls for a heart of compassion that responds to the love of God by selflessly loving others in a practical way. One practical opportunity Grace wants to provide is “Loco for Local” happening on May 5th. Find out more at trygrace.org/events.

QUESTIONS

1. Derek mentioned several local organizations, have you heard of any of these or worked with any of them? What was your experience or impression?
2. Was there one organization that was most interesting or compelling to you?
3. When you think of a “neighbor”, what images or thoughts come to mind?
4. John 13:34-35 serves as a defining characteristic of Jesus’ ministry. What does it mean to love as Jesus has loved?
5. Derek spoke briefly about the tension of having the impact that Jesus had—i.e. we are not God, and cannot simply fix, heal, deliver, perform miracles for just anyone and everyone. What then does this practical love and help look like?
6. Do you feel that this statement is generally true: “We want to be helpful but not necessarily inconvenienced”? Why or why not?

7. How does this statement impact our relationship with God? With others?

8. Luke 10:25-37 tells the story of an individual in need and highlights the decision and heart of the individual passing by who either ignores or helps. What things factor into how you respond when you encounter someone in need?

9. Jesus ultimately turns the question around on the “lawyer”. Instead of asking “who is my neighbor”, Jesus essentially asks “who chose to be the needy person’s neighbor?” The same question is posed to us today: “Will you choose to be a neighbor?” How does this question settle with you?

Are there concerns or fears that arise from this question?

10. “Love the Lord...Love your neighbor” are intimately connected. How is your relationship with God—or lack thereof—affecting your relationship with others?

How is your relationship with others—or lack thereof—affecting your relationship with God?

11. What is one thing you might choose to focus on this week to improve either your relationship with God or someone else?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am confronted by your love and care for all people equally. Thank you for your love and grace that you give without merit and partiality. Help me to extend this love to those in need. Grant me wisdom and compassion as I respond to your call of love and selfless service. In Jesus name I pray, amen.