

Giving Light Devotional Podcast EP32: Improving Your Neighborhood

Jesus commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves. In today's episode we'll lay a foundation for community transformation.

SCRIPTURES:

Mark 12:30-31, "And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." (NLT)

Luke 10:27-29, "Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (NLT)

Matthew 5:44-46, "But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much." (NLT)

1 Peter 4:8-9, "Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay." (NLT)

John 15:12, "This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you." (NLT)

QUESTIONS:

1. List 5 practical ways to love your neighbor.

2. Why do you think loving your neighbor is bound to loving yourself?

3. How can you apply the story of the good Samaritan to your own life?

4. Why is it important to first love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength before we extend that love to our neighbor?

ACTIVATION:

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal 3 of your neighbors that need to experience the love of God. Find opportunities during the week to interact with those neighbors. Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and by faith, step out and share the love of Jesus.