

September 2019

WNW STUDY

Session 1

Love Your Neighbor



LEADERSHIP TIPS

This Guide will give you some basic Tips on how lead the study well if you choose to do this with a group or in your family.

WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?

The first session is centered around how to identify who your neighbor is and we'll talk about how important it is to love others well.

START TALKING ABOUT IT: BULLYING

This week we will start talking about a big issue: Bullying. It's important that we set the stage this week. Bullying exists everywhere. Don't ignore it.

LEADERSHIP TIPS YOU SHOULD TRY

Transperency and Truth

Transparency builds Trust. If you want the people you lead to be open with you- you need to be open with the people you lead.

There are moments when you should be careful not to share to much, but what you do share should be true.



Studying by yourself?

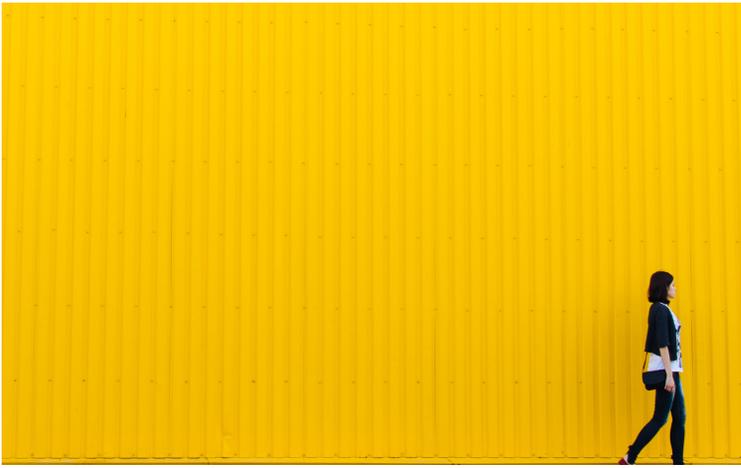
I strongly encourage you to use this study as a conversation between you and God. Journal your answers to the questions and write out your thoughts.

One of the most cathartic things you can do is to put your thoughts on paper and ask God to speak into them.

Use this week to really explore this topic internally and externally.

READ: LUKE 10:29-37

When told to love his neighbor- a man asked Jesus, "who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."



START THE CONVERSATION ON BULLYING

Share: Share a time in your life when you were bullied or saw it happen.

Reminder that this doesn't stop when you get older it just looks differently.

Ask: "When was the last time you saw bullying at your school/ workplace/ social circle?"

Ask: "Do you know people that get bullied?"

Ask: Why do you think they/ you get bullied?"

Ask: "Is it important to stand up and defend others?" Why is this hard?"

WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?

Share an interesting, weird, or funny story with a neighbor you have or have heard. If you don't have any talk about what you think your neighbor think of you based on your funny habits.

Ask: Who do you think your neighbors are?

Read: Matthew 22:35-40



Ask: Who do you think Jesus means by "your neighbor"? (For younger kids have them list off all of their Friends and teachers and people the know).

The Answer: The short answer is... well everyone is your neighbor!

Apply: Spend time thinking about the phrase "Love _____ as yourself" replacing neighbor with everyone you interact with. How does this change the way you read this passage?

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

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"Love that really annoying person as yourself"...

Jesus chose the phrase "your neighbor" because being someone's neighbor isn't specific. We are called to this regardless of our neighbor's race, gender, religion, political affiliation- whatever you can think of. We are called to love them all.

Ask: Why is loving someone as yourself such a big deal?

Ask: How does it change the way you treat people outwardly?

Ask: How does this command change the way you treat people inwardly?

Pray: Ask God to help you see everyone differently. Even if you think you already do well in this area. We all have areas we need to improve on

THIS WEEK:

Ask God to point out people in your life that you should love better.

Share these experiences with others. Ask those in your group if they have had any success with this throughout the week.

Every time you encounter someone hard to love ask yourself- "How can I love _____ as myself?"

