

# PUT IT INTO PRACTICE. ✓

**Ice Breaker:** How well do you know your next-door neighbor(s)?

**Read:** Mark 12:28-34; 1 John 3:16-18, 1 John 4:19-21, Leviticus 19:9-18, Matthew 5:43-48, 1 John 3:1-3

## Discussion Questions:

- Opening Thought
  - Biblically, who is our neighbor?
- Loving God with All of Our Being (Mark 12:28-30, 1 John 3:16-18, 1 John 4:19-21)
  - What does it look like practically to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength?
  - Why is it important to remember that God loved us first?
  - According to 1 John, why is claiming to love God while not loving others impossible?
  - What parts of ourselves (heart, soul, mind, strength) do we struggle to offer fully to God?
  - How does loving God empower us to love others even when it's difficult?
- Loving All of Our Neighbors (Mark 12:31; Leviticus 19:9-18; Matthew 5:43-48)
  - Leviticus 19 includes commands about generosity to the poor and fair treatment of the foreigner. What does this reveal about God's heart for the marginalized?
  - Who are the "poor, foreigner, marginalized, or oppressed" in our immediate context? What could keep us from seeing these groups as neighbors?
  - Jesus calls us to love not only neighbors but also enemies. What does loving an "enemy" look like—not emotionally, but practically?
  - How are you currently loving your neighbors?
- Loving Ourselves as God Loves Us (Matthew 12:31; 1 John 3:1-3)
  - What does 1 John 3:1-3 tell you about your identity and value as God's beloved?
  - How does knowing you are deeply loved by God shape your ability to love others?
  - Have you ever tried to love others while struggling to receive God's love for yourself? What was that like?
  - What spiritual practices help you grow in the awareness of God's love?
- Closing Thoughts
  - What would a neighborhood look like where people truly lived as God's beloved children?
  - Where do you already see glimpses of God's Kingdom in your neighborhood?
  - What is one specific way you can help cultivate a "Beloved Neighborhood" this week?

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.

