

Jesus Never Said THAT: Everyone for Themselves

May 3, 2020

Week 3 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Mark 12:28-34](#), [Romans 5:8](#)

REFLECT: After reading Mark 12:28-34, draw a cross (you will come back to this through the week): label the vertical post "love God" and label the horizontal post "love my neighbors." At the intersection of the two posts write "JESUS." Now reflect on Romans 5:8. What does it mean that Jesus loves you? You are filled with that love! Through the power of the Spirit within you, you have the capacity to both love Him and to love others with Christ-like love.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Use [Ephesians 3:14-20](#) to guide your prayer time. Ask Jesus to give you a profound sense of His love and to be filled with His fullness so that He can do the impossible in you- give you a heart to love others like you love yourself, like He loves them. As the Lord puts a person in your mind this week, add their name to your drawing.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[Covid-19 Neighboring Toolkit](#)" from [The Art of Neighboring](#) author Dave Runyon.

LEARN MORE and find resources for neighboring on the [website](#).



Day 2-

READ: [Deuteronomy 6:1-9](#), [James 1:22](#)

REFLECT: In order to live a “we over me” life, we must nurture a daily allegiance to God. Read through Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and use your drawing of a cross to write down the ways that we are called to love God. What does that look like in a practical sense each day? For example- how do you love Him with all your *strength*?

PRAY: *Jesus, forgive me for merely listening and not doing. Teach me to love you with all that I am, in all that I do, in every moment of every day.* Make this your prayer this week. Whose name will you add to your cross? In what practical way can you show them love?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH/READ: [What is the Shema?](#) – Learn more from this blog on TheBibleProject.com.

WATCH: Learn more about Love from the Shema in this [video](#) from TheBibleProject.com.

Day 3-

READ: [1 John 2:6](#), [Psalm 63](#), [Acts 9:1-22](#)

REFLECT: In his sermon, Pastor Derek says, “Becoming a Christian means inviting Jesus to lead your life and surrendering your will to him.” In these passages we read of lives once ruled by selfish ambition become transformed by the Holy Spirit. What is the evidence of transformation in David’s life? In Saul’s (Paul)? Go back through each passage and make note of their surrender- write them on your cross drawing. Where in your life do you see evidence of surrender?

PRAY: Recommit your life to follow Jesus- wherever He leads and to whomever He calls you. Make a note of the date in your Bible or on your cross drawing, and write, “I surrender.”

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WORSHIP with spoken word artist, David Bowden- [“How to Neighbor”](#)

Day 4-

READ: [1 John 4:7-21](#), [1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#)

REFLECT: What does John write about the definition of God's love? Compare that to Paul's definition of love written to the church in Corinth. Go back to your cross drawing. What are the ways in which God calls us to love others? Write those along the horizontal post. Get practical and write the ways that you can put Christ-like love into action.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: There are people you can love *today* because the love of God is in you. Add their names to your cross drawing. How will you show love today? Choose one or two of the practical things you wrote on your cross.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[Love Yourself Less](#)" from DesiringGod.org or "[Love Does Not Begin with You](#)" from The Gospel Coalition.

Day 5-

READ: [Luke 10:25-37](#), [John 13:35](#)

REFLECT: If the Samaritan had not stopped, what would have happened to the Jewish man, his enemy? If you don't show love to the person God places in your path, what might happen to them? Love is not easy or convenient, but it wasn't easy or convenient for Jesus to love us either. What have you learned about His love this week? What have you learned about yourself? Be honest with God- do you want to love like the Samaritan loved? Do you want to love like Jesus loves?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Get on your knees and open your hands, palms up, in front of you. Thank the Lord for all that He has taught you this week. Surrender fears, anxieties you have about practically loving others. Ask the Spirit to fill you to the full measure of His love and to pour that love on neighbors and relatives and friends and strangers and enemies and....

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: This compelling series of videos, "12 Neighbors," from RightNow Media documents real people living with real love for neighbors. [If you need a *free* RNM account, visit www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia today to register!]

LEARN MORE about 12 Neighbors on their [website](#).