



2 Are you my neighbor?

Memory Verse

Love your neighbor as yourself.
Matthew 22:39

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RESOURCES TAB

Truth in Action

Little's

- Draw a picture of a heart to remember how much God loves you.
- Tell your family that you love them!

Mids

- What's the best way someone has ever shown love to you?
- Make a list of ways you can love your family today. And do it!

Oldies

- How do you know God loves you?
- Think of one person you have not been good about showing love to. Write them a letter telling them how much God loves them and you do too!

Who is my neighbor? I have noticed that “love your neighbor” is a phrase used in many scriptures in the Bible. I’m learning it is because God really wanted us to know how important it is. I will admit, for a long time, I thought he was talking about my ACTUAL neighbors, like the folks who live on my street. I have a Pastor & his family with three nice kids across from us, two sweet older couples who often seem to double as grandparents on either side of our home. There’s the young husband & wife with a little boy behind us. We often chat with them when they are playing in their yard. Down the street, are some of my son’s best buds and where he can be found most days in the summer. And although these people are important, this is not the only group of people God is talking about when he says “neighbors”. He is actually referring to: our family we live with, the family we don’t live with, classmates, the people that live near our house, those that go to our church, people that live in our town. So basically, everyone! All people. If you read the verses just before Matthew 22: 39, you will see Jesus telling the Pharisees (the really smart experts of the law) to “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 to.....” You guessed it—LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

I have a shirt that says “Love God, Love People”. That helps me keep in mind how I am supposed to act. If I’m unsure, I just say to myself—does this show love to God? Does this show love to people? Sounds easy enough doesn’t it? Some days it is, some days it isn’t. I will be the first to admit that it is very hard to love some people. Some people are mean. Some are boring. Some are just not people I want to hang out with. And that’s okay. But loving them is what God asked us to do. And loving God means obeying him. We have to remember that God loves each and every one of us. He made each one of us specific and special. Even the ones we think are too mean or too different. We remember that we sometimes mess up, we have things we don’t do very well but God loves us just the same. It’s not our job to look at people in any other way than as another one of God’s children.

So, when that kid always comments on your clothes and makes you feel sad? Love him. When you see someone who looks completely different than you? Love them. When your parents scold you for dragging mud into the house? Love them. When your teacher tells another boring story? Love them.

Today, let’s come up with ways we can love our neighbors. Maybe it’s with a compliment, playing a game with your sister, doing your chores without being asked, scooping the snow from your neighbors driveway, writing a thank you note. Love God, love people. It’s that simple.

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