

# LOVE *Where You* LIVE

A Neighboring Project of the Senatobia Church of Christ • LifeGroups Study for September 11, 2016

## ICEBREAKER

What is the worst experience you've ever had with a neighbor? The best experience?

## THE TEXT

Read aloud the text for this series, **Matt 22.35-40**, and for this lesson, **John 20.19**, and **Mark 12.28-34**.

## THE SERMON

Why are we more comfortable with the "gathering" aspect of our faith than with the "going" aspect?

### FROM THE SERMON:

*"The idea of loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, with all our strength, and the idea that we are to love our neighbor as we love ourself — in the same way God loves our neighbors — those two things are inextricably linked together in the person and in the life of Jesus..."*

What do you think Mike meant when he said these two commands are "inextricably linked?"

How should God's presence in our lives translate into the way we love and treat others?

How should God's purpose give our lives focus? How does God qualify us for his purpose for us?

What did Jesus mean when he told the scholar "You are not far from the kingdom of God"?

Where does the gap come from between loving the idea of Jesus, and actually following him?

## REFLECT

In what places and ways has God *uniquely planted* you? What would Jesus moving into your neighborhood look like? What might be the result?

Jesus's disciples locked the door out of fear of the Jews. How are we sometimes guilty of "locking our doors" out of fear of the world?

### AT HOME • IN THE CHURCH

How does that sense of fear carry over to:

### WORKPLACE • SCHOOL • EXTENDED FAMILY

In what ways has God's presence been unleashed? What does that mean for us? For our neighbors?

In what ways do you see the world expressing a deep spiritual hunger, even as they turn away from attending church? How will becoming better at being a good neighbor help satisfy their hunger?

What does letting Jesus shape our conversations mean versus setting the agenda ourselves?

Why should there be a sense of urgency for obeying the greatest commands?

## PRAY

*Father, in the name of your son Jesus we ask that you give us a sense of urgency in obedience to your commands to love, and be good neighbors, not for our glory or purposes, but for yours. May we truly see others the way you see them, and love them accordingly, and fulfill your purposes without forcing our agendas on them. Help us to obey you, without reservation or fear, and bring your light to this dark world.*