

# TENSIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

GROUP LEADER GUIDE: WEEK TEN

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your **strength.** The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these. -

**Mark 12:30-31**

### Reflecting on Love

Love your neighbor as yourself. Your "self" should love God. Love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Why? Why is it important that the focus of your love not be yourself?

### The Golden Rule

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

**Matthew 7:12**

How can you love your neighbor as yourself, when you do not even know the love you should have for yourself?

*"It is by loving, and not by being loved, that one can come nearest to the soul of another."*

*George MacDonald*

### The love you understand is the love you reflect.

What love do you reflect in your life? Selfish love? Or God's love?

Have you found wholeness in what you have loved in life? Do you need to change the focus of what you are loving in your life?

Where love reigns, everything else will be put in its proper order, bringing wholeness to your life.

What could you do to understand more the love of God in your life?

## KEY VERSES

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

**James 2:8**



## Love your neighbor

Read **Luke 10:25-37**.

Who is your neighbor based on this story?

How can you show mercy to those neighbors in your life?

God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us... God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 5:5,8**

### Closing Prayer Activity

Have each person write a prayer of 3 sentences.

- One sentence describing God's love for them
- One sentence describing the love of God they want to have confidence of in themselves
- One sentence describing the love they need to share with a neighbor or loved one in their lives.

Then pray as a group having each person pray the prayer they wrote.