



Small Group Guide Week 1 INTRO: Earth is just a really big neighborhood. If you think about it, we are all somebody's neighbor and they are ours. God gave us neighbors as a gift, to be our teachers and to help prepare us for our final neighborhood in heaven. Sometimes, though, our neighbors are difficult. Sometimes we don't understand them, and sometimes we'd like them to be more like us. Jesus taught the world a great deal about loving *everybody always*, especially the people who are difficult.

1. Do you have a memory of a favorite neighborhood? What did you like about it?

READ Luke 10:25–37

1. What do you imagine was the attitude of the lawyer?
2. Why does Jesus bring up the law?
3. What does it mean to love your neighbor as *yourself*?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Bob Goff says that “love is not something we fall into; love is something we become.” (p. 2) What does it mean to *become* love?
2. Are the people you surround yourself with more like you or different from you? Why?
3. What makes loving people, whether you're more alike or different, so hard?
4. Do you have any “enemies?” Be honest. What makes them an enemy?
5. How would our community be different if we took Jesus' command to love our enemies seriously?

OUTRO: Jesus has invited everyone to participate in the Kingdom of God, and in his radical Kingdom of love there is no place for judgment, exclusion, or hate. When we love those who are difficult we are saying Yes to Jesus' invitation to a new kind of neighborhood. Go find someone you think is wrong or someone who has wronged you and decide to love that person the way you want Jesus to love you. Living like this is living with God.

PRAY TOGETHER:

Pray Psalm 139 and substitute “I” for the name of someone you disagree with.