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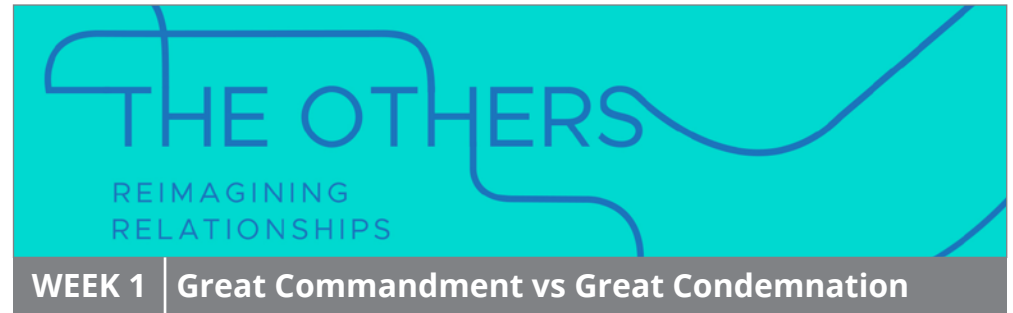
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### PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, that you love me despite all of my faults and issues. Lord, I ask that you help me to love my neighbours with the same kind of love that you extend towards me. Lord, help me to see my neighbours through your eyes. Show me practical ways that I can help them, and through that help, be able to show them the love of Jesus. Help me to put aside my agenda to simply love them, to meet them where they are, and to love them as you love them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*[Tiffany Thibault - A Prayer to Love Our Neighbor](#)*

### WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Have you ever been shown overwhelming kindness from someone that you didn't know very well? If so, what happened?

## WORD

<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup> And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup> And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

<sup>38</sup> And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces <sup>39</sup> and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, <sup>40</sup> who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

### [MARK 12: 28-34, 38-40](#)

"So loving others is the outward manifestation, the visible expression, the practical demonstration, and therefore the fulfilment of what the Old Testament is about. So there is a sense in which the second commandment (to love your neighbour) is the visible goal of the whole Word of God. It's not as though loving God is not here, or that loving God is less important; rather, loving God is made visible and manifest and full in our visibly, practically, sacrificially loving others. I think that is why the second commandment stands by itself when the New Testament says that love fulfils the law."

-John Piper

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. What does it look like to love our neighbour as we love ourselves?
2. A neighbour is not only the people living next door, but they can also be anyone around you who is in need. Knowing this, on a scale of 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = extreme), how would you rate your capacity to love your neighbour? Why might you say this?
3. How does someone love God with all their soul and strength? How might you do this in your own life?
4. What is a practical way that you can love the ones around you this week? Will you challenge those in your Life Group to show the love of God to their neighbours and share what God has done through them?
5. Have you put your trust in Jesus? Would you be willing to abide in God's presence in every area of your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## PRAYER