

## Sermon Based Small Group Questions

*Loving God and Neighbour*



### Opening

1. Before your meeting, watch the following video and jot down 2-3 reflections.

<https://vimeo.com/117428367>

### Going Deeper

Read Matthew 22:34-40 together

1. Why do you think the Pharisees were looking for a way to trip Jesus up? What about his life made them uncomfortable?
2. Although Jesus is only asked for 1 answer, he gives them two. Why do you think he does this?
3. Reflect on the following quote by Dale Brunner: *“Only together in a nurturing mutuality is either love kept pure. A neighbour minimizing love of God is just as reprehensible to Jesus as a God minimizing love of neighbour.”*
  - a. If you were to err in one of these two directions, which would it be? Why do you think that is?
  - b. If our love of neighbour flows out of our love of God, is it possible to love our neighbour without loving God?
4. Jesus’ words would have fallen heavily on the ears of the Pharisees, who were known for taking care of their Jewish neighbours but distancing themselves from non-Jewish people. Who are the people you are most prone to keep your distance from? Why?

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5. Often times when we read this passage, we can read it without thinking about the neighbours who live around us. Take a few minutes to draw your street or apartment building. Write out the names of your eight closest neighbours.
  - a. Go around the room and share how many names you knew and what you know about them.
  - b. How was this exercise for you? What did it help you see?
  - c. What some practical ways you can love these neighbours? What might it look to move from stranger to acquaintance, or acquaintance to meaningful relationship?
  - d. What small step might God be calling you to make as you consider loving your neighbours?

*Close your time together by praying for your neighbours.*