

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

"One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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." "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions." (Mark 12:28-34, NIV)

"Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody." (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, NIV)

Key Points:

Loving God cannot be separated from loving people.
Trust God and love others

Start talking. Find a conversation starter.

- When in your life have you felt the most loved? Share about it.

Start thinking. Ask a question to get thinking.

- Read the Mark passage to the left. What do you observe in the interaction between the religious leader and Jesus?
- Read the Thessalonian passage. How does this passage show love in practice?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- How do you need to grow in trusting God and loving others?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Jesus, I pray that you would give me the strength to love as you loved. Help me open my life to others and allow them to love me well. Help my love point people to you!

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Tying into this week's message we have the "Real Hope: Community of Christ" Bible reading plan which can be found on the YouVersion Bible App or at <https://www.bible.com>.
- Consider how you could love others by serving at Westwood or in our community.