



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Love Your Neighbor - Tim Knipp

### November 5th, 2023

*Leviticus chapter 19 provides further framework for Israelite daily life. God calls his people to live out these commandments and “Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.” God is shaping his people to be like himself. This chapter also emphasizes that becoming holy is a transformation of one’s inward and outward self. In his sermon Tim notes: “Holiness is love in action.” This theme is seen through the various ways Israel is called to live and the attitude as a whole is pulled forward into the New Testament. For the discussion this week, there are varying depths of complexity and connection to the broader narrative of scripture.*

*Choose questions that you think will fit your group's dynamic and comfort level.*

#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week?
- How is everyone doing with daylight savings time? Thoughts?
- What’s your relationship like with your physical neighbors? Do you know any of them? Do they keep to themselves?
- Share about someone who inspires you by the way that they care for powerless or vulnerable or oppressed people (could be a person in your life or someone you have heard of/read about).

#### Book - Scripture

*Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**.* Read Leviticus 19.

- Look through Leviticus 19. Together, write up a list of the two questions Tim asked us Sunday: How does this love get expressed? Who does it get expressed to?
- Do you notice a common theme among the verses in this chapter?
- Based on the text, to whom does God direct his commands towards?
- What are the different areas of Israelite life God gives instructions for? (personal/private, neighbor relations, family, economic)



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- What commandments do you think would most distinctly separate an Israelite from someone else living in the Ancient near Eastern world? I.e. What would one most certainly notice about their daily life?
- The phrases “I am the Lord your God” and “I am the Lord” are used heavily throughout this chapter. What kind of effect does the repetition of this phrase have?
- The first time God speaks the words “I am the Lord your God” is in Ex. 6:7, declaring his covenant relationship with Israel. From the perspective of the Israelites, why would hearing this phrase repeated to them be significant?

#### Look - Connections to our world today

*This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*

- What do these commandments reveal about how God wants the Israelite people to relate to each other?
- After reading these Scriptures, what do you learn about God's heart for the poor and powerless?
- Tim noted that these Old Testament morals and ethics are pulled forward into the NT and can be seen through Jesus' words in Matthew 22:39-40 which read:  
**39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**
  - How does this one simple command in Matthew encompass much of chapter 19 in Leviticus? Can you think of examples from Jesus' life where he lived out “Love your neighbor as yourself?”
- What consistencies in God's character are revealed in both the Old Testament rescue of the Israelites from Egypt and the gift of salvation through Jesus in the New Testament?



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#### Took - Personal Application

*This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*

- In a Western culture, our private affairs are considered our own. What does it feel like to know that God is concerned with both our public and private lives?
- In Tim's message, he notes that "Holiness is love in action." What could love in action mean for our interactions and engagement in the secular world and with non-believers?
- What going on in our world right now needs to be touched or met with "love in action?"
- If you have folks from multiple cultures or ethnic backgrounds in your small groups, what aspects of "Loving your neighbor" are harder than others? I.e. With those from Western or Eastern cultures, individualist vs. collectivist cultures, etc.
- In the same way that the response to God's rescue of the Israelites was living out his commandments, how do you think we should respond to the act of God's mercy, grace, and love shown to us through Jesus?

#### Time of Prayer

- In this time of global unrest when it seems like we may have little impact on the world around us, pray for God to reveal to your group how to bring peace, rest, and provision to those around you.
- Pray that He would soften our hearts and replace spirits of apathy and hurried-ness with compassion, empathy, and action.