

Transition:

While in the temple, Jesus continues to teach the crowd using parables, answering about taxes and even the resurrection. Throughout Jesus' ministry, He was accused and questioned by Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes. Now we see even a lawyer jump in.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time

Discussion Questions:

1. I am told to love others as Jesus loved me. What practical things can I do to make this a reality? (Ps 73:25-26)
2. Who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:29-37)
3. What does it mean to love God? How is *agape* different from the other loves (eros, storge, philia)?

Fundamental:

The Great Commandment - The command at this point is to love our fellow Christians. But there is another side of Jesus' teaching: We are to love our fellow human beings, as human beings. We are to love all people, in fact, as neighbors. All people bear the image of God. They have inherent value, not simply because they are the objects of Christ's saving work, but because they are God's creation, in God's image. All people are our neighbors, and we are to love them as ourselves. We are to do this on the basis of creation, even if they are not redeemed, for all people have value because they are made in the image of God. Therefore, they are to be loved even at great cost.

1. How do we know that we have come to know God? (1 John 2:3-4)
2. What are his commandments? (John 15:12; 1 John 3:23-24)
3. Is the great commandment specific to Sunday or every second of every day?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Go out of your way this week to help your neighbor.
2. Please read Matthew 23 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Challenge your group to put their love in action – may it be more than words. Pay for someone's groceries, pull over to help change a tire, give someone the jacket you're wearing – choose to do little things that show you love God by valuing people.

Prayer:

God help us to love with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and help us to do the harder part, love our neighbor as ourselves - for this proves we really do love You.