



the greatest commandment

Small Group Discussion Guide // July 15, 2018

Read Mark 12:28-34

1. Scott reviewed our mission statement and core values this Sunday.

Mission:

We exist to live out God's story in our community.

Values

- **Intimacy with God** – We pursue God's heart. Our communion with God will determine the impact of our lives.
- **Relational Evangelism** – We connect the disconnected. We intentionally create space in our lives to build relationships that connect people with Jesus.
- **Life on Life Discipleship** – Disciples produce disciples. Everyone is a disciple, and everyone disciples.
- **Intentional Apprenticeship** – Leaders develop leaders. Every leader identifies, equips, and releases new leaders.
- **Radical Generosity** – We hold nothing back. Jesus gave His life for me; I will give until it changes my life for Him.
- **Profound Humility** – We choose purpose over preference. We gladly set aside our preferences for God's purpose of reconciling the world to Himself.
- **Life Together** – We are created for community. We are committed to cultivating warm, relaxed, and authentic environments where people can thrive together.
- **Missional Living** – What happens here doesn't stay here. The Church does not exist for us. We are the Church and we exist for the world.

Which value is easiest for you to live out? Which is the most difficult?

2. The Pharisees and Sadducees were threatened by Jesus. Jesus consistently said, and did, things that challenged their way of doing life. (Matt 15:1-12)

What are the things that you hold as sacred in the church? Are there things that you would be unwilling to change? Do you find your value and identity in Christ or do you find your value in the way you worship?

3. Jesus always maintained a Kingdom perspective. That's tough to do in the day-to-day of the church. We see the things that have to be done, the ministries that must be maintained, and, if we're not careful, we can miss out on the Kingdom work that Jesus is calling us to do because we're so into the church work that we're used to doing.

Are there places in your life where you may be doing good things, but you need to shift your focus to make sure that it's a Kingdom thing? Where are the places you need to evaluate how you have focused your attention?

4. Jesus instructs that we are to love God completely, and He highlights four ways. (Mark 12:30)

What does it mean to love God with:

- All your heart?
- All your soul?
- All your mind?
- All your strength?

5. Love your neighbor as yourself. If we have been filled with God's love, which knows no boundaries, then our view of humanity and the love we have for every person should have no boundaries. (1 John 4:7-12)

Who is it that is difficult for you to love? Is it a specific person? Is it a people group? How do you think Jesus would show love to someone you might struggle with?

6. Jesus responded to the teacher's affirmation by telling him that he was not far from the Kingdom of Heaven. The teacher had recognized with his mind that Jesus' teachings were sound, but Jesus wanted his heart. (Mark 12:34)

Do you gravitate more toward head knowledge or heart action? Is there a place for both?