



## Who is my Neighbor? - Ken DeCook

### Icebreaker:

1. What reality show do you think you'd be the best fit for?
2. Do you prefer Applebees or Chili's?

### Summary:

Jesus commands us to love and serve our neighbor, but he also challenges our understanding of who our neighbor is.

### Engage the Bible:

Read Matthew 22:34-40. Discuss as a group.

### Small Group Questions:

- Breaking Down Walls – Jesus challenges the lawyer (and us) to see people differently. What walls—ethnic, ideological, or relational—do we tend to build that keep us from loving our neighbors well?
- Seeing "The Other" – The Jews and Samaritans had deep divisions, yet Jesus used a Samaritan as the hero of the story. Who do we tend to "other" in our own lives—whether because of where they're from, how they live, or what they believe?
- Faith vs. Action – The Levite and priest may have had good reasons for not stopping to help, yet Jesus highlights the Samaritan's sacrificial love. In what ways are we tempted to prioritize religious duty, personal comfort, or ideological differences over actually loving our neighbors?
- Sacrificial Giving – The Samaritan didn't just offer "thoughts and prayers"; he took action. How can we move from good intentions to practical, sacrificial love in our daily lives? What are some tangible ways to "go and do likewise"?
- Ideological Divisions – The Samaritans had different beliefs and practices, which caused tension with the Jews. What are some modern-day ideological divisions that make it hard for us to love others? How does Jesus' teaching challenge the way we engage with people who believe differently than we do?
- Personal Application – Is there a specific relationship, group of people, or situation where God is calling you to break down walls and love sacrificially? What is one step you can take this week to live out Jesus' command?