

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

November 19/20, 2016; Dream

Speaker:

Pastor Dave Schmidgall

Scripture Focus: Matthew 22:36-39

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed the Greatest Commandment of loving God is of equal importance to loving our neighbor. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: What does it mean to be the least?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways did Matthew 22:36-39 speak to you?

Specific Questions:

1. Scripture says loving God is of equal importance to loving your neighbor. How can they be equal? Why does Jesus tell us this?
2. In what ways are you loving those who are least like you? Why do you think we get comfortable just loving those who are like us?
3. John 2:13-17 talks about the story of the moneychangers in the Temple. Sacrifices were based on economic income. The pigeons of the Old Testament represented those who were the poorest of the poor. Here, the moneychangers are exploiting the least and "honoring God but dishonoring what God honors." Have you ever thought of this story in this way before? Why would Scripture include a story of Jesus' righteous anger? What angered Jesus in this story?
4. Pastor Dave said that sometimes what we see in the Christian culture differs from what Jesus actually practiced. "In what ways have we submitted to the Christian culture that are different than the ways and mission of Jesus?"
5. What is your initial reaction when you hear the statistics such as, "87% of Christians, the

highest of any group, are uncomfortable or avoid conversations with Muslims”?

6. Why do you think loving all people is difficult? What makes it uncomfortable? What are some ways you can learn to love amidst the discomfort?

7. Pastor Dave said, “We always try to put Jesus in a box. And he is always bigger than our box.” What “boxes” do you have in place that God might want to change in your life?

Challenge:

When relating it to Culture Wars, Pastor Dave says there are generally two options: fight or flight. But fight or flight in our culture is not the way of Jesus. Instead the way of Jesus is:

- 1) Proximity
- 2) Empathy

What are some ways this week you can be in close proximity with those who God loves and honors? Who do you need to love regardless of it being difficult or uncomfortable?

What are some ways you can begin to be in another’s shoes and show empathy?

Read, Pray, Act:

Read

- Read through a copy of the A1:8 booklet passed out at our campuses or listed online at aoneeight.org to see where you can participate and engage with missions.

Pray

- Pray through the options and see what area God wants you to step out in. Anti-trafficking? Community Development? Homelessness? Refugees?

Act

- Visit our webpage <http://map.aoneeight.org> and get engaged practically.