

INTRO

- Think of a time when you moved to a new city, a new country, a new school or workplace. Can you remember an act of kindness that helped you in a time of transition?

This series explores Jesus' call to be an influence for good within our world. How can we let our **light** shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven?

READ

Matthew 22:34-40

REFLECT

Our love for God and our love for our neighbour are inextricably linked.

After a discussion regarding eternal life with an expert in the Mosaic law, Jesus makes it clear that the love we are to show to our neighbours includes **acts of love and generosity** towards those who are strangers or even enemies. (Luke 10 - The Good Samaritan)

John, the closest friend of Jesus, speaks strong words, "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar." (1 John 4:19-20)

James, the half-brother of Jesus writes, "If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself,' you are doing right." (James 2:8)

The Apostle Paul had a lot to say about the greatest commandment:

"For the whole law (*all the instructions given to Israel*) is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:14)

"For the commandments, (*then Paul lists some*) are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'" (Romans 13:9)

And consider these words from Paul:

Contribute to the needs of the saints **and** seek to show hospitality. (Romans 12:13)

From the original language, a saint means one set apart by or for God. Yes, contribute to the needs of other followers of Jesus!

But Paul also exhorts us to seek to show hospitality. From the original Greek, hospitality means love to strangers or love to foreigners. Look for opportunities to meet the needs of those who don't yet know the love of God.

RESPOND

We're taking up the challenge to be "salt and light" in a practical way using a tool we call "The PEBCI Card". It's a way for us to be purposeful in identifying "neighbours" to pray for and to practically show the love of God to - those who don't yet know Jesus.

P - Pray, E - Eat, B - Bless

Let's talk together about the first three:

Qu: Who are the 3-5 people who are not Christians you are committed to pray for? Make sure the people you choose live or work in proximity to you - neighbours.

Step one might be to meet a "neighbour". Introduce yourself. Start a conversation with a workmate, school mate, or someone who lives in your neighbourhood. The way we know how to pray for our "neighbours" is to get to know them.

Qu: Is there someone on your list you could have a coffee or meal with this week? Or bake them some chocolate chip cookies?

Qu: As you pray for those on your list, ask "What next, Lord?" What steps can you take to build this relationship, perhaps by meeting a practical need, giving a gift, "blessing" your neighbour?

Encourage one another as we each take steps to love our neighbours.

SALT + LIGHT

PRAY

- Pray over your PEBCI card — for those name already on, or, for God to lead you in the names that need to be on.
- Pray our church becomes a community that lives as disciples and seeks to make disciples.

The Great Commandment