

# Love Has No Loopholes

When we think about the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Mark isn't usually the first place we go. Yet Mark, listening to the eyewitness accounts of Peter, wrote a fast-paced gospel sharing the miraculous things Jesus did, including His death and Resurrection, to convince his Roman readers that Jesus is the Son of God. Let's not overlook what we can learn about our Savior in the overlooked gospel.

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## INTRODUCTION

Today we were reminded that the greatest commandment is to love God with everything and to love your neighbor as yourself. We were also reminded that God showed us how to love with the precious blood of Christ. When we show love with no loopholes like God has shown us, then love's scope is immeasurable.

## STARTER QUESTION

In today's message, we discussed seven practical ways to show love to our neighbor. Which one resonates with you and why? Can you think of any other ways?

## INTO THE WORD

Read Mark 10:17-22. Does the Shema prayer discussed today from Deuteronomy 6:4-6 have any parallels to the story about the rich young man in Mark?

Read the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37). What practical ways do we learn how to love from this parable?

## APPLICATION

Read Matthew 18:21-35. How often should we forgive? Can you think of someone you should forgive and/or seek forgiveness from? What gets in the way of doing that?

Read Psalm 119:164 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. When should we pray and/or how often should we pray?

Read 1 John 4:16-21. If I focus on loving God, what other things will fall into place?

Read Luke 6:35-36. How do I love the people who are not like me, disagree with me, or hurt me?

## PRAYER

Lord, help me to love without loopholes. Forgive me for harboring ill feelings towards others and help me to see everyone as someone you shed blood and died for. Even though times are challenging and dynamic, we know that there is a larger plan at work. Help us to see opportunities to love to our neighbors and act on that love in ways that glorify you. We know how valuable we are to You. You showed us. Help us to appreciate that in our everyday lives throughout the coming week. Amen.