



### Series: Love Where You Live - Week 2

**ICEBREAKER:** Describe a time when you felt especially welcomed or cared for by a neighbor or someone outside your usual circles. What made that experience stand out to you?

#### **INTRO AND RECAP:**

In our series "Love Where You Live," we explore how loving our neighbors tangibly demonstrates Christ's love. Previously, we discussed loving God and loving others as central to our faith. This week, from 1 Peter 3, we learned about being neighbors who live with contagious Hope and Respect, prompting others to ask questions about our faith.

#### **KEY VERSE:**

Mark 12:30-31 *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message? Was there anything surprising, challenging, or new that you learned?

#### **READ:**

1 Peter 3:13-16 (NLT): *Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. 15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear.*

#### **GROUP DISCUSSION:**

- What does Peter say that our attitude and approach should be?
- What does this mean: "Hope as a believer"? (See Biblical References below on Hope)
- What are some of the reasons why Christians might avoid sharing their Hope with others?
- Can you recall a time when someone's Hope in Christ made a noticeable difference to you? What did that look like, and how did it impact you?
- Responding to 1 Peter 3:15, what might you say if someone asks about your Hope as a believer?

Matthew 5:16 says, *"In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."*

- Explain / give examples of how Matthew 5:16 might be lived out.



### PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

#### Apply:

- What steps have you taken to “Love Where You Live”?
- Can you think of someone in your life who could benefit from hearing the reason for your Hope?

“Love is the ultimate apologetic.” – Art Lindsey

### BIBLICAL RESOURCES:

- Colossians 4:5-6 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.
- Philippians 2:14-16 Do everything without grumbling or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure; children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.
- Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

### Hope Passages:

- 1 Peter 1:3-4 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.”
- Romans 5:1-2 “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.”
- Titus 2:13 “While we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”
- John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
- Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
- Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- Psalm 23:4 “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”
- Isaiah 40:31 “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”
- Revelation 21:4 “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death.”