Ice Breaker Question:
Did you do an audit of your time last week or give something up (social media, TV, etc.)? How did that go?

Read and discuss this week’s scripture: Mark 12:28-31, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

1. When you’ve had someone knock on your door to share their faith with you, what was it like? How can reaching out to your neighbors be similar or different from that experience?

2. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 2:3, his appeal to the people there does not come from impure motives or tricking them. What are our motives to reach our neighbors? How can they be impure or pure?

3. In 1 Thessalonians 2:4-7, Paul shares what someone entrusted with the gospel looks like. What stands out to you in Paul’s description? Which of those characteristics do you have and which ones do you need to grow?

4. In the book, The Art of Neighboring, the authors share on page 102, “We don’t love our neighbors to convert them, we love them because we are converted.” Discuss the tension in this statement. Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

5. Paul shares that he wanted not only to share the gospel with people in Thessalonica, but also to share his life as well, because the people were dear to him (1 Thessalonians 2:8). Who is dear to you in your life? How can neighbors or others be dear to us – so that we can share our lives and the gospel?

6. Instead of sharing your story first, have you ever asked others about their story first? How does listening create a safe place for sharing?

7. Some of our neighbors will be Christian believers, some will not. In what ways can we be involved in a non-believer’s life? As Christians, how are we to engage differently with non-believers?

Prayer:
Keep the following prayer requests from our church family in mind as you close: