Ice Breaker Question:
Do you enjoy having people into your home or does it make you anxious or somewhere in between?

Read and discuss: Mark 12:28-31, Genesis 18:1-15

1. Hospitality of strangers is still virtuous in the Middle East. How did Abraham in Genesis 18 show hospitality to the strangers in the story? How does this story encourage you to show hospitality?

2. Abraham and Sarah offer food, “a choice tender calf,” to the visitors. Sharing food with others is a common and important theme in the Bible. Why is food important to welcoming visitors, even today?

3. One definition of hospitality refers to the host receiving the guest with goodwill, kindness, and warmth; including the reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. In trying to be good neighbors as God has called us to be, what do you think is most important about hospitality?

4. In Genesis 18, God shows up to Abraham and Sarah through three strangers. How might God show up in visitors to your home?

5. In the book, The Art of Neighboring, the authors say it is also important to let our neighbors serve us. This is the art of receiving. Can you describe a time when someone was hospitable to you?

6. What are the things that make hospitality a challenge to you? What current needs do you have that a neighbor might be able to help you with?

7. A couple of weeks ago we looked at the story of Mary and Martha. How are the actions of Martha and Abraham similar? How are they different? How do you explain the difference in the way God responds to them?

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

> Prayers of healing for Laura Nelson, John Lindenschmidt, Pierce Robb, Hadley Lehr, Talbott Sumners, and Chuck Vogt.