








Small Group/ Reflection Notes

24-11-2024		The most important commandment?	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> Summarise your week in 10 or less words.		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> What can AI now do? Have a play with ChaptGPT . <input type="checkbox"/> What can AI <i>not</i> do? <input type="checkbox"/> What is the core message of the Bible? In 10 or fewer words? Then ask ChaptGPT . What does ChaptGPT 's answer compare to yours? <input type="checkbox"/> Hillel the Elder (c.40BC-10AD), a Jewish expert in the Law, was asked by a Gentile, <i>"Teach me the whole of the Torah (the Law) whilst I stand on one foot."</i> Hillel answered, <i>"What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. That is the whole of the Torah. The rest in commentary. Go and learn."</i>		
 Read	Mark 12:28-34	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> v.28 : If the question was just about 'the 10', which one do <u>you</u> think is the most important? If the question was more about the wider Law (Jewish tradition says, in all, there are 613 laws/ commands in the Torah), which one would you say? <input type="checkbox"/> v.29 : Why did none of 'the 10' make it into Jesus' answer? How might Jesus' questioner/ hearers have reacted to His answer? <input type="checkbox"/> v.29 : Why did Jesus instead answer with the Shema Prayer? Do you have a default prayer (freestyle or set) you regularly pray? Deuteronomy 6:4 : What might Jesus' hearers have needed to know from this about Him and His mission? What does it mean for God to be <i>Lord</i> ? What does it mean for God to be 'One'? Why did Jesus want to start from Oneness (unity/ coherence within, essence of) God? i.e. as God understands Godself? <input type="checkbox"/> v.30 : Why is <i>love</i> the most important command? 1 John 4:8 : What is the essence of God? In light of v.29 's 'Oneness', why is ' <i>love God, love others, love yourself</i> ' the natural response to God? How are we to love God? With what? How does God love us? <input type="checkbox"/> v.30 : Read Deuteronomy 6:5 : Why does Jesus add-in 'mind'? How do <i>you</i> love God with all your 'mind'? How can questioning, challenging, investigating, even doubt, be an aid to deeper faith? What happens to <i>our</i> or <i>other people's</i> faith when we close our minds to difficult/ complex life issues? <input type="checkbox"/> v.31 : Why does authentic love for God lead to/ demand 'love <i>others</i> '? Who are our ' <i>neighbours</i> '? Why do <i>we</i> not get to choose who are 'neighbours' are? Leviticus 19:18 : How can our own attitudes/ prejudices affect who we treat as 'neighbours'? <input type="checkbox"/> v.31 : Why does authentic love for God lead to/ demand 'love <i>yourself</i> '? Why is it "love your neighbour <u>as you love yourself</u> "? What's the link/ relationship?		

	<input type="checkbox"/> v.32-33 : Why is 'love God, love others, love yourself' the essence of the Law? Why does this trump the minutia of the Law? To what extent does it feel that 'love God, love others, love self' wins over religious traditions/ institutional structures? <input type="checkbox"/> v.34 : What journey was this 'pillar of religious orthodoxy' on? Why was he beginning to get it, but others not? What did he still need to do?
Go further 	<input type="checkbox"/> Why, when we talk about the centrality of love ('love God, love others, love yourself') trump everything? <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 6:32-36 : Why does Jesus challenge us to love those we don't naturally like/ agree with/ have much in common with?
 Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> What do you find <u>easier</u> to do: Love God? Love others? Love yourself? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> What do you find <u>harder</u> to do: Love God? Love others? Love yourself? Why?
 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Just One Thing. Following the example of BBC's Michael Mosley, do <i>just one thing</i> this week to: <input type="checkbox"/> To love God, I will <input type="checkbox"/> To love others, I will <input type="checkbox"/> To love myself, I will
 Pray	
 My questions:	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.