



When asked which commandment was the greatest, Jesus responded by saying, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Love God. Love your neighbor.

This simple instruction from Jesus is at the center of how I try to move through the world as a person of faith and as a child of God. Loving God and loving your neighbor is also the simplest way I can think of to talk about what it is we try to do at Living Water Ministries.

Whether we’re gathering students from congregations, adults with developmental disabilities, children in foster care, families experiencing homelessness or young anti-racist faith leaders the goal is the same. We aim for every participant to experience, articulate, and share this love for God and neighbor with the world.

Participants come to camp with all the brokenness and baggage the world has offered them. They come to camp indoctrinated by the idea that they have to do more, be more, and have more, carrying all the stress and anxiety that comes with such an endless pursuit. Through their time at camp they spend a week immersed with their peers and our staff learning that they don’t have to pursue being, doing, or having more because they are enough as they are. They spend a week learning that God sees them, values them, and deeply loves them as they learn that they are seen, valued, and loved by the camp community.

In this world in which we live, the kind of experience where the love of God can be discovered and/or explored, and a love for neighbor can be offered and/or given is priceless.

I’ve been working full-time with Living Water Ministries for 17 years now, and while the work can sometimes be truly exhausting it has always been life-giving to witness the transformations that occur in campers and in the community as they lean into a love for God and neighbor week after week and summer after summer.

Creating a space for a love for God and neighbor to run rampant gets me up every morning, and it also inspires me to do ridiculous things like run a 200(ish) mile relay race in support of Living Water Ministries. Enclosed you’ll find a bunch of information about this race and a personal invitation for your support. Please know that any gift you are able to provide helps make these sacred experiences happen. Any gift you make will be used to help participants experience the love of God, a love for God, and a love of neighbor.

Any gift you give will change lives.

