

Neighboring: The Place to Start

sermon series: *Won't You Be My Neighbor*, pt. 1

Luke 10:25-37 & Acts 17:26-27

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Discussion Questions:¹

1. Share about your neighborhood and the types of relationships that you have with the people who live on your street or in your building. On a scale of 1 to 10, how “connected” is your current neighborhood?
2. What was your big take away from this week’s message on neighboring? What stuck out to you? What did you like? What was difficult or confusing?
3. What jumps out at you from the Scripture today - both about the parable of the Good Samaritan and Acts 17:26-27? Luke 10:29 says this about the teacher of the law: “But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’” In what ways do we attempt to justify ourselves in order not to love our literal neighbors? According to Acts 17, why do we live where we live? Why has God placed us in our neighborhoods? What about those that surround us? Why are they there?
4. Do you have any “invisible” neighbors - those neighbors who we see but don’t know? Do you think you are invisible to them as well? How does it end up like this?
5. We heard a clip of the mayor stating, “The majority of the issues that our community is facing would be eliminated or drastically reduced if we could just figure out a way to become a community of great neighbors.” To what extent do you think this is true? Why don’t government programs alone solve the problems of society?
6. What would happen if everyone made it a point to know and befriend their literal neighbors? Dream together about how our communities, city, country and world would change if this were true.

Application:

1. Fill in the *Block Map* on the reverse -
2. Go around the room and share how many of the names you knew? Did you have any insights as you did this exercise? What did you learn or feel as a result of doing this exercise? Most people naturally feel a little guilty when they realize how little they know about their neighbors. Identify one neighbor that you are going to pray for during the next week. Take time to pray in the group for the neighbors that were mentioned.
3. Share one small “next step” that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.

Examples:

- Learn a specific neighbor's name
- Invite a couple over for dinner
- Ask a neighbor for advice on how to take care of your lawn because their's is nicer ~Have everyone share that step out loud and write them down so that everyone can be praying throughout the week.

¹ Most of these thought questions and action steps come from the book, *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon. I plan to glean insights from their book throughout this sermon series and share them with you . . . and take them to heart myself! :)

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

a.



b.

a.



b.

a.



b.

a.



b.



YOU ARE HERE

a.



b.

a.



b.

a.



b.

a.



b.