



## THE ART OF NEIGHBORING: Who is My Neighbor?

Pastor Derek Sanford

October 7, 2018

### Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Pastor Derek opened up the series by talking about how where we live is an intentional placement by God. He referenced **Acts 17:26-27**, read that scripture again. Where have you seen evidence in your life of the idea that where we live is by God's design?
3. Pastor Derek taught that our neighbors aren't merely just the people we literally live next to; they're the people God has put in our path. How does this change the meaning of "love your neighbor as yourself" if you think about who is in your path on a daily basis?
4. Read: **Galatians 5:13-15** and **Ephesians 4:2**. In these scriptures what are some of the ways we're instructed to love others? What would it look like to love that way?
5. If we are Jesus followers, we're called to unselfishly and humbly love others. Pastor Derek said as true Christians; we cannot define our neighbors just as those we have chemistry with. Is it hard for you to love someone that thinks/acts differently than you? Why or why not?
6. Read **1 Peter 1:17-22**. What does Peter say we need to do to develop sincere love for each other? If you believe that's true, what is something you need to do (or stop doing) in your life to grow deeper in love with Jesus?

**Next Steps:** Think of one person that you see on a regular basis (maybe you've never interacted with this person, or maybe you have, but not in the way Jesus instructs us to), what is one way you can love them better? Tell someone else in your group so they can hold you accountable.

**Prayer Thought:** Have someone pray this prayer over the group, and then follow with a moment of silent prayer and confession, asking God to reveal where His work needs to be done in your life. Father God, your love for us is deep and wide. We are created in your image and throughout scripture you show us just how much you love us. You love us even when we don't love you back. You love us even when we keep doing that thing we know you want us to quit. You love us when aren't good mom's, dad's, friends, spouses. Father, help us to know you more. Help us to open ourselves to your deep love, so that we can love others just like you. Jesus, show us how to break down the barriers that keep us from loving those you've put in our path. Give us the eyes to see the people around us who need to be loved. Father, as we seek to love others better, may we also know and love you better.



## THE ART OF NEIGHBORING: The Time Barrier

Pastor Derek Sanford

October 14, 2018

### Life Group Discussion Questions:

7. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
8. Go to the following link and watch the video for Session 2, "The Time Barrier," and have your group respond. <http://www.artofneighboring.com/6-week-interactive-small-group-study/>
9. The Big Idea for this sermon is: Neighboring requires that you create some space and slow your pace. Discuss just how difficult that sounds to you.
10. Read **James 4:14**. Not only is our life short but so is the time we have to influence our neighbor for Christ. What keeps this truth from our minds?
11. Read **Luke 10:38**. Martha invited Jesus into her house. How comfortable are you with having people in your home. What thoughts can influence us from having our neighbors in our home.
12. Read **Luke 10:39-40**. Mary became distracted. What things around you home distract you from spending time with your neighbors? Has anyone in the group ever found themselves doing something that was good but later realized it wasn't something God wanted them to do?
13. Read **Luke 10:41-42**. When you heard the second point of the sermon which said, "The thing holding you back from neighboring is not time, it's priorities," How did you feel about that? Upon reflection how do you feel about it now?
14. The third point of the sermon was, "Don't let the urgent crowd out the important." What does that mean? How have you seen this in your own life?

**Next Steps:** What space do you plan to spend at least one hour in this week that will position you to interact with your neighbors?

### Prayer Thought:

- **ADORATION:** Praise God for you home and your neighborhood.
- **CONFESSION:** Confess the many opportunities God has given you to serve your neighbors that you have allowed business to keep you from taking.
- **THANKSGIVING:** Thank God for your neighbors.
- **SUPPLICATION:** Ask God to allow you to speak with one neighbor this week.

**Suggested Memory Verse: James 4:14b:** *What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.*



## THE ART OF NEIGHBORING: The Fear Factor

Pastor Brian

October 21, 2018

### Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Leader: Check out "The Fear Factor" video (session 3) from The Art of Neighboring small group video series (<http://www.artofneighboring.com/6-week-interactive-small-group-study/>).
3. Leader: Read "Four Reasons We Don't Share the Gospel" from DesiringGod.com (<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/four-reasons-we-dont-share-the-gospel>). How can this group be used by God to help each member overcome obstacles to neighboring?
4. What are your biggest fears? What scares you when it comes to people and the practice of neighboring? Could it be true that sometimes we "blame" our personality or past experience or even call it "being smart" instead of recognizing our fears and working to overcome them?
5. **READ Deuteronomy 31:8; Joshua 1:6-9; Isaiah 44:8; Matthew 28:20b; Acts 18:9-10; Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Timothy 1:7**
  - a. What is the common command in all of these verses?
  - b. Why is it possible for us to not fear and to have courage?
6. What are the WORST case scenarios of getting to know your neighbors and intentionally seeking opportunities to share the love of Jesus with them? What are the BEST case scenarios? Share past experiences.
7. Follow up on next steps from previous weeks. Do we now know the names of all of our neighbors? Have we positioned ourselves to interact with our neighbors?

**Next Steps:** Continue to take steps to interact with your neighbors. Consider the Block Party idea at [www.artofneighboring.com](http://www.artofneighboring.com).

**Prayer Thought:** Break into pairs and spend time praying for courage and boldness. In addition, pray specifically for individual neighbors.



## THE ART OF NEIGHBORING: The Art of Receiving

Dave Runyon

October 28, 2018

### Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. **Read Luke 7:36-50.** Discuss the difference between how the Pharisee saw the woman and the way Jesus saw her. How do you see your neighbors? How do you think Jesus sees them?
3. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Timothy 2:1; Romans 8:26-27.** Talk about some ways you can pray for your neighbors, even if you don't know them yet.
4. **Read Ephesians 4:29; Colossian 4:6; Philippians 4:8.** What kind of communication do you have with your neighbors? Share some ideas for getting to know them better and sharing conversation.
5. **Read John 4:1-10; John 6:5-12; Luke 8:1-3.** How do these verses show Jesus receiving from people in order to involve them in community and ministry? What are some ways you can receive help from your neighbors?
6. **Read Hebrews 13:2; Luke 6:31,35; Matthew 10:42.** Dave Runyon said, "As Christians we should be part of the best parties on our block." In his book he tells the story of a time when his life group decided to have a spontaneous barbecue and invited all the people in the neighborhood. Brainstorm some ways your group can show hospitality to neighbors around the place where you meet.
7. "Jesus says being a good neighbor is exactly the kind of life that can change the world. This simple truth can change everything: *small things matter*. They really do."—from The Art of Neighboring by Pathak & Runyon What small things can you do to change your neighborhood?

### Next Steps:

- a) Take the challenge to initiate a conversation with a neighbor. Commit to hold one another accountable.
- b) Think of an acquaintance in your neighborhood you could invite to share a meal.

**Prayer Thought:** Spend some time together praying for your neighbors—those you know and those you don't. Ask God to help you know them better, love them better, serve them better, and receive from them better. Ask Him to draw them to Jesus.