

The Art of Neighboring:

Week 1: October 7

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [John 13:35](#)

REFLECT: We live in a world where it can feel like a race toward the new job, new car, new house, etc. According to this scripture as followers of Jesus, we're called to stand out by how we love others. Ask yourself: Would someone know that I love Jesus based on how I love others?

PRACTICE: Pray and ask God to reveal to you where you need to stand out more in how you love and treat others.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[If We Love God Most We Will Love Others Best](#)" from DesiringGod.org.

REFLECT: According to this article, what happens when we don't love God the most?

PRACTICE: Ask yourself: Do I love God most? Whether the answer is yes or no; pray and ask God to reveal to you the areas where you need to grow.

Day 2-

READ: [Philippians 2:1-4](#)

REFLECT: Jesus came as a servant King, humbly loving everyone around him. In this scripture, how does Peter say we should live if we're united with Christ?

PRACTICE: What is one thing you can do this week to love others in a more Christ-like manner? Make yourself a note – in your Bible, on a post it on your bathroom mirror – somewhere you'll see it, and pray each day that God would show you how to love that way.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[Loving the Neighbor We Didn't Choose](#)" from DesiringGod.org.

REFLECT: Who is the neighbor whom you did not choose, but you need to love?

PRACTICE: Intentionally pray for this person every day for the next seven days.

Day 3-

READ: [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

REFLECT: In this passage, Jesus is telling a story about the final judgment, and how our treatment of others comes into play. This scripture makes it evident that Jesus is calling us to love our neighbors, just as we love him. Jesus let us know that when we don't love others that way, we aren't just rejecting that person; we're rejecting our Heavenly Father. There are consequences for how we treat others. How might how you treat those around if you read this story more often? What would happen if you asked yourself "if this was Jesus, how would I show my love?"

PRACTICE: When we treat others poorly, it's a sin issue. Pray and ask the Father to open up the parts of your heart that are lacking obedience in the area of loving others. Ask Him to show you how to be obedient.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[How Do I Know if I Really Love Jesus?](#)" from DesiringGod.org.

REFLECT: According to this article, how will you know if you really love Jesus?

PRACTICE: What is one thing you can do more consistently to love Jesus better? Start today!

Day 4-

READ: [1 Corinthians 12:1-13](#)

REFLECT: This passage is often read at weddings to give a picture of marital love. In reality, Paul is writing to all believers about the importance and gravity of love. What does Paul list as the characteristics of love? How does this scripture change your perspective of love if you look at it through the lens of loving those around you (not just loving your spouse)? Why do you think Paul ends this passage by saying "but the greatest of these is love."?

PRACTICE: Write out the characteristics of love as recorded by Paul and put them somewhere so that you'll see them and be reminded daily.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "God doesn't prove His love when he answers our prayers. He proved His love when He sent His son." Pastor Craig Grosecel, Life.Church

REFLECT: How does this quote make you feel about God's love?

PRACTICE: How can you receive God's love differently if you think of it in terms of his sacrifice, rather than in terms of whether or not you feel he answers your prayers?

Day 5-

READ: [2 Corinthians 5:14-15](#)

REFLECT: Sometimes we need reminded that Father God didn't send Jesus to die on the cross ONLY for the Jews or for the Gentiles. Jesus' invitation to salvation is free and open to everyone who will receive him. This includes all of those people who are in our daily path. According to this scripture, for whom did Jesus die on the cross? How does that one word impact the mission of our lives as Christ followers?

PRACTICE: Who in your daily path needs to receive love in order to see Jesus? Pray and ask God how you can show this person Jesus.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[For Whom Did Christ Die?](#)" from DesiringGod.org.

REFLECT: What was encouraging about this article?

PRACTICE: In your prayer time today, spend time thanking God for his gift of salvation – the ultimate sacrifice, yet so freely given for YOU.