

THE ART OF NEIGHBORING

Week 4- The Art of Receiving

October 28, 2018

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Luke 7:36-50](#)

REFLECT: The Pharisee only saw this woman's history of sin. What did Jesus see? How did the story Jesus told the Pharisee reveal the heart of both the Pharisee and the woman?

PRACTICE: Think of people you pass every day—especially neighbors—and ask Jesus to give you an opportunity to really see them and learn their stories.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [Psalm 139:1-3](#); [John 13:34,35](#)

REFLECT: God knows us intimately and that is one way He shows His love for us. How does getting to know our neighbors show we care about them?

PRACTICE: Watch this short training video, "[Love Your Neighbors](#)" by Eddie Mosley on Right Now Media.

(If you do not yet have a Right Now Media account, you can register for one here:

<https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/>)

Day 2-

READ: [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#); [1 Timothy 2:1](#)

REFLECT: God tells us to pray always and for everyone. Do you pray for your neighbors? Make a list of ways you could pray for them, even if you don't yet know their names.

PRACTICE: Watch this YouTube video, "[A Story Behind Every Door: the Art of Neighboring](#)", then take some time to walk around your neighborhood and pray for those who live in those houses.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [Job 42:10](#); [Romans 8:26-27](#)

REFLECT: “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

PRACTICE: After praying for your neighbors, ask God to give you an opportunity to have a conversation with one you have never met.

Day 3-

READ: [Ephesians 4:29](#); [Colossians 4:6](#); [James 1:19-22](#); [Philippians 4:8](#)

REFLECT: Think about how you can bless your neighbors with your words. Could you offer help or hope or praise?

PRACTICE: Plan what you will say the next time you greet a neighbor—something beyond the usual comment about the weather—that could start a conversation.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [Matthew 12:36](#); [Proverbs 15:1,4](#); [Proverbs 12:25](#); [Titus 3:2](#)

REFLECT: Jesus is called the Word—God spoke His love through the life of Jesus. How can the way we serve our neighbors be a type of conversation that leads them to Jesus?

PRACTICE: Read this article, “[Let’s Bring Conversation Back](#),” from *Desiring God* on the art of conversation.

Day 4-

READ: [John 4:1-10](#)

REFLECT: Jesus was vulnerable enough to ask a woman to meet a need for Him. How did He use that to continue a conversation that led her to faith?

PRACTICE: Make a plan. The next time you have a need for a tool or just an egg for a recipe ask a neighbor to meet your need and see how that could open doors to a relationship

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [John 6:5-12](#); [Luke 8:1-3](#)

REFLECT: Jesus used a little boy’s lunch as well as the financial support of some wealthier women to support His ministry and build community. How can you help your neighbors meet one another’s needs?

PRACTICE: Watch this YouTube video, "[Rediscovering the Art of Neighboring: Diving Into the Mess](#)" about meeting needs.

Day 5-

READ: [Hebrews 13:2](#); [Luke 6:31, 35](#); [Matthew 10:42](#)

REFLECT: How can you share hospitality with your neighbors? "One of the easiest things to do is eat together. So it's easy to say, 'You're eating; we're eating; let's eat together.' Yes, that does require some intentionality. But it's not hard to invite others to join you because you are already going to eat anyway, right? Just try it."—from [The Art of Neighboring](#) by Pathak & Runyon Think of a neighbor you could invite to share a meal.

PRACTICE: On YouTube listen to "[Dream Small](#)" by Josh Wilson and ask God to show you what you can do TODAY to bless a neighbor.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#); [Philippians 2:3-8](#); [John 2:1-11](#)

REFLECT: How did Jesus model community for us? Jesus' first miracle was to change water into wine—something that wasn't necessary for life but for celebration. What do you think about that?

PRACTICE: How can you make celebration a greater part of your own life and that of your neighborhood? It might be as small as baking some extra cookies to share or as large as a block party. Ask God for some ideas.