



Intentional Neighboring

Session 1

Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-29, 36-37 and Matthew 5:43-48

OUR MISSION

*We exist to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ
who obey the Great Commandments and fulfill the Great Commission.*

Neighboring According to Jesus

1. Jesus said loving your neighbor is one of the two greatest **COMMANDMENTS**.
2. The Great Commandment is not a suggestion -- it is an act of **OBEDIENCE**.
3. Neighboring is not a program -- it is a **WAY** of life.
4. The primary visible evidence of our love for God is our love for **PEOPLE**.
5. Jesus said, "Do this and you will **LIVE**."

Why We "Neighbor"

Neighboring is not primarily about getting people to come to church. Our goal is to be the best neighbor our neighbors have ever had. We love them because Jesus told us to -- and obedience is enough. When we love well, doors will open. And when they don't, we keep loving anyway. We don't force it. We follow the Holy Spirit's lead.

"We should go in thinking of neighboring as an act of obedience, which Jesus accepts as love to him." -- Rick Rusaw, The Neighboring Church, p. 48

The Neighboring Church: Getting Better at What Jesus Said Matters Most

By: Rick Rusaw & Brian Mavis

The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door

By: Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon

Mapping Your Neighbors

Draw a simple map of your home and the houses or units immediately surrounding it. Write the name of each neighbor. Then note what you know about them.

For each neighbor ask:

- What is their name?
- What do I know about them -- family, job, how long they have lived there?
- Do I know any hurt, hope, or dream they carry?

Report Back

- What was the most surprising thing your group discovered about your neighbors?
- Which neighbor in your group presents the biggest challenge?
- Which neighbor are you most motivated to pursue -- and what is one thing you could do this week?
- Did anyone in your group discover a neighbor going through something hard right now?
- Who in your group has the longest relationship with a neighbor they still don't really know?

GOALS FOR THE COMING WEEK

- Finish your neighbor map if you didn't complete it today
- Pray over each neighbor by name
- Ask the Lord: who are You nudging me toward?
- Pray for divine appointments with your neighbors
- Pray that you will recognize a divine appointment when you are in one
- Pray for boldness -- to speak, to invite, to ask a question, to love on someone
- Don't force it -- be as obedient as the Holy Spirit makes you

HELPFUL TIPS

- Smile and make eye contact -- stop and look someone in the eye
- Use their name -- people feel seen when you remember it
- Ask questions and actually listen -- don't fill every silence
- Remember details -- follow up on what they told you last time
- Don't have an agenda in the moment -- just be present
- Show up in ordinary moments -- wave, stop, linger a little
- Bring something -- food is hard to be suspicious of
- Celebrate their wins -- notice and say something
- People are watching how you live, how you speak, and how you treat others. Make sure your conduct aligns with your testimony. If you've failed, don't defend yourself— apologize. Humility often speaks louder than explanations.