

Intentional Neighboring

Session 3

“Fishers of Men”

Matthew 9:35-38 | Acts 17:26-27 | Mark 1:16-17

Your Prayer List

List five people you know who are far from God. Pray for them by name in the coming weeks.

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
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Ideas to Engage People Personally

Brainstorm ways to take a real step toward one person.

Examples: coffee, a shared meal, a note of encouragement, asking their story, offering to pray, helping with a need.

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
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Ideas to Engage Neighbors – Hospitality in Your Home

Brainstorm ways to open your home and your table to the people around you.

Examples: invite a neighbor for dinner or dessert, host a cookout, coffee on the porch, a game or movie night, a holiday open house.

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
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Missionary Field Guide

You don't have to cross an ocean to be a missionary. God has already placed you on a mission field — and you are not starting from zero. You already speak the language, you know the culture, and you already know the people. These are the same seven principles a missionary uses anywhere in the world. They just happen to apply right here in Durham.

Principle #1 – Learn the Mission Field

A missionary's first job is to learn the people before saying a word about the gospel. Ask:

- Who lives here? What do they value?
- What challenges do they face? What are their hopes and fears?

Your mission field is your neighborhood, workplace, school, hobbies, and community.

Principle #2 – Build Relationships

Missionaries don't begin by preaching to strangers. They build trust — learning names, listening, becoming a friend. A few questions that open doors:

- What's your story? How long have you lived here?
- What brought you to Durham? What do you enjoy doing?
- What challenges are you facing right now?

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Principle #3 – Look for Persons of Peace

Jesus taught His disciples to look for people who welcomed them. Not everyone will be interested — but some will. Look for people who are friendly, open, curious, and interested in spiritual conversations.

God is already at work before you arrive.

Principle #4 – Serve People

Missionaries look for ways to bless the community. Ask: How can I help? What needs are around me?

Simple acts of kindness open doors that words cannot.

Principle #5 – Start Spiritual Conversations

Look for openings and ask questions — don't force them. For example:

- Did you grow up with any faith background?
- What role does faith play in your life?
- Is there anything I can pray about for you?

Principle #6 – Cast Different Nets

Different people connect in different ways — hospitality, service, kids' events, VBS, simple friendship.

The goal is never the event. The goal is the relationship.

Principle #7 – Remember Your Pond

God has already placed people around you — your cul-de-sac, your complex, your workplace, your team. Your mission field is at your doorstep.