



Intentional Neighboring

Session 4

Review & Reaching Those in Crisis

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 _____.
 2. The Great Commandment is not a suggestion -- it is an act of _____.
 3. Neighboring is not a program -- it is a _____ of life.
 4. The primary visible evidence of our love for God is our love for _____.
 5. Jesus said, "Do this and you will _____."
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Intentional Neighboring: *Responding to Everyday Crisis, Every Day*

FIVE QUESTIONS

1. What is the _____ for ministering to those in crisis?
2. Why is there such a _____ for crisis ministry?
3. How do we _____ to those in crisis?
4. Am I _____ to help those in crisis?
5. How do I _____ to minister to those in crisis?

What Is the Biblical Mandate for Ministering to Those in Crisis?

Jesus' _____ for crisis ministry –

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:35–38

- He went to those in need.
- He met *physical* needs with compassion.
- He addressed *spiritual* needs with truth and hope.

You are _____ to minister –

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:3–4

- God uses your past experiences to comfort others.

You are _____ to minister –

³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:30–31

³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6:31

- Love God, love your neighbor.
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Practical Exercise: When Crisis Opens the Door

Scenario

For the past two years, you have intentionally built a friendship with your neighbor, Samantha.

You've talked over the fence, helped each other with projects, shared meals, and become trusted friends. Samantha knows you are a Christian and knows that prayer is an important part of your life. While you have never pressured her about spiritual matters, she knows you are a person of faith.

Samantha is not hostile toward God. She simply lives as though God is not part of everyday life.

She does not attend church, does not read the Bible, and spiritual conversations have never been a significant part of your friendship.

One afternoon Samantha knocks on your door. She has just returned from an appointment with her doctor.

"The doctor found cancer."

She begins to cry.

"The good news is they caught it early. He says it's very treatable and expects a good outcome.

But my mom died of cancer when I was a teenager. Ever since then, I've been terrified of hearing that word."

After a few moments she looks at you and says,

"I know you're a praying person. Would you pray for me?"

Practical Exercise: When Crisis Opens the Door

Discussion Questions

1. What has happened over the past two years that caused Samantha to come to you instead of someone else?
2. Why do you think Samantha is more open to prayer now than she was before her diagnosis?
3. What fears is Samantha expressing beyond the medical diagnosis?
4. How would you respond in that moment?
5. Would you pray immediately? If so, what would you include in your prayer?
6. What statements or responses would you avoid making?
7. Would this be an appropriate time to present the entire gospel? Why or why not?
8. How can you point Samantha toward Christ without taking advantage of her vulnerability?
9. If Samantha's treatment goes well and life begins returning to normal, how would you continue investing in the relationship?
10. Samantha came to you because of her cancer diagnosis. If she had never received that diagnosis, do you think she would have come to you asking for prayer? Why or why not?
11. At what point, if any, would you intentionally transition the conversation from praying about Samantha's cancer to talking about her relationship with Christ? What might that conversation sound like?
12. Suppose Samantha had never received the cancer diagnosis. Is there anything you can do to naturally and respectfully guide your conversations toward spiritual matters, or must you simply wait for a crisis? Give some examples.