

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Habits of a Good Neighbor

December 3, 2017

the art of *Neighboring*

Message Notes

Stay: Love your neighbors by getting to know them. Staying is loving your neighbors by learning about them, learning names (and Histories, Hopes and Hurts), seeing people's best (Luke 10:33), and listening well.

Pray: Love your neighbors by praying for them. When we begin pray, God opens our eyes and we begin to see things we didn't see before (Ephesians 1:18). When God puts it on your heart to pray for someone, he often wants you to be a part of the answer to that prayer (Matthew 9:37-38).

Play: Love your neighbors by offering hospitality. One way we can play is by opening our homes and offering hospitality. Our homes are the most under-utilized physical resource in the kingdom. Jesus seemed to be always going to a meal, party or just leaving someone's house after a meal (Matthew 11: 19).

Say: Love your neighbors by sharing Christ with them. See 1 Thessalonians 2:8. In *say*, your job is to share your story. It is also about sharing faith, because it's part of your life. See John 4:4-42. Six lessons come to mind when looking at Jesus' model of sharing faith.

- 1) Jesus crossed barriers to meet people on their own turf (4:4-9).
- 2) Jesus used natural conversation to talk about spiritual topics (4:10-14).
- 3) If Jesus saw that his approach wasn't working, he didn't force it (4:15-16).
- 4) Jesus focused on her life (4:17-18).
- 5) Jesus gently corrected her misunderstanding (4:19-24).
- 6) Jesus pointed toward himself as the one she needed (4:25-26).

But Jesus isn't the only good example in this passage (See John 4:27-42).

The Samaritan woman also sets before us an example: She knew her neighbors, opened her eyes to her them, told her story, and asked her neighbors a thoughtful question. Being effective at sharing Jesus with others means living out faith with a motive of love, listening well, and having the courage to share our own lives. See 2 Corinthians 5:16-20.

LifeGroup Discussion Questions

1. As you reflect in this “Art of Neighboring” series, what is one thing that has challenged you the most?
2. The first habit of a good neighbor is “Stay: love your neighbors by getting to know them.” What are some things that keep you from getting to know your neighbors better? What, if anything, can you do to change this?
3. The second habit is “Pray: love your neighbors by praying for them.” What may happen as you begin to pray for your neighbors?
4. The third habit is “Play: love your neighbors by offering hospitality.” What are some simple ways you can start being more hospitable toward your neighbors?
5. The fourth habit is “Say: love your neighbors by sharing Christ with them.” Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8. What does this show us about the most effective way to share Christ with your neighbors?
6. Read John 4:4-26 and review the six lessons we learn from Jesus in his conversation with the woman at the well. What might this conversation look like in your neighborhood? What might be some topics of conversation that could lead to a conversation about faith or God?
7. How might the Christmas season offer you a unique opportunity to put into practice some of these habits of a good neighbor?