

BEING A NEIGHBOR

1: BEING A CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR



BIG IDEA: Discussing foundations for the series on what it means to be a Christian neighbor.

→ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

→ OPENING PRAYER

→ SCRIPTURE READING



Luke 10 (New International Version)

(Circle key phrases or verses that stand out to you)

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

²He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’

⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.

⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you.

⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,

¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you.

Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’

¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.

¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens?

No, you will go down to Hades.

¹⁶ “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²² “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

²³ Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.”

²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

⁴¹ “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

 **DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE**

 **APPLICATION DISCUSSION**

⇒ DIVINE PARTICIPATION

What are some practical action steps you can take to implement the application above throughout the week?

What step will you take in this next week to understand more deeply, to participate more actively, and to relate to Jesus more closely?

We make our friends; we make our enemies; but God makes our next-door neighbors. Hence, they come to us clad in all the careless terrors of nature; they are as strange as the stars, as reckless and indifferent as the rain. They are human, the most terrible of the beasts. That is why the old religions and the old scriptural language showed so sharp a wisdom when they spoke, not of one's duty towards humanity, but one's duty towards one's neighbor.
-GK Chesterton (20th century British theologian)

I commit to...

⇒ CLOSING PRAYER

BEING A NEIGHBOR

2: WHO ARE OUR NEIGHBORS?



*BIG IDEA: Exploring who Jesus meant when he mentioned the idea of neighbor.
It was obviously important to him – who is this person?*

→ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

→ OPENING PRAYER

→ SCRIPTURE READING



Luke 10:25-37 (New International Version)

(Circle key phrases or verses that stand out to you)

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

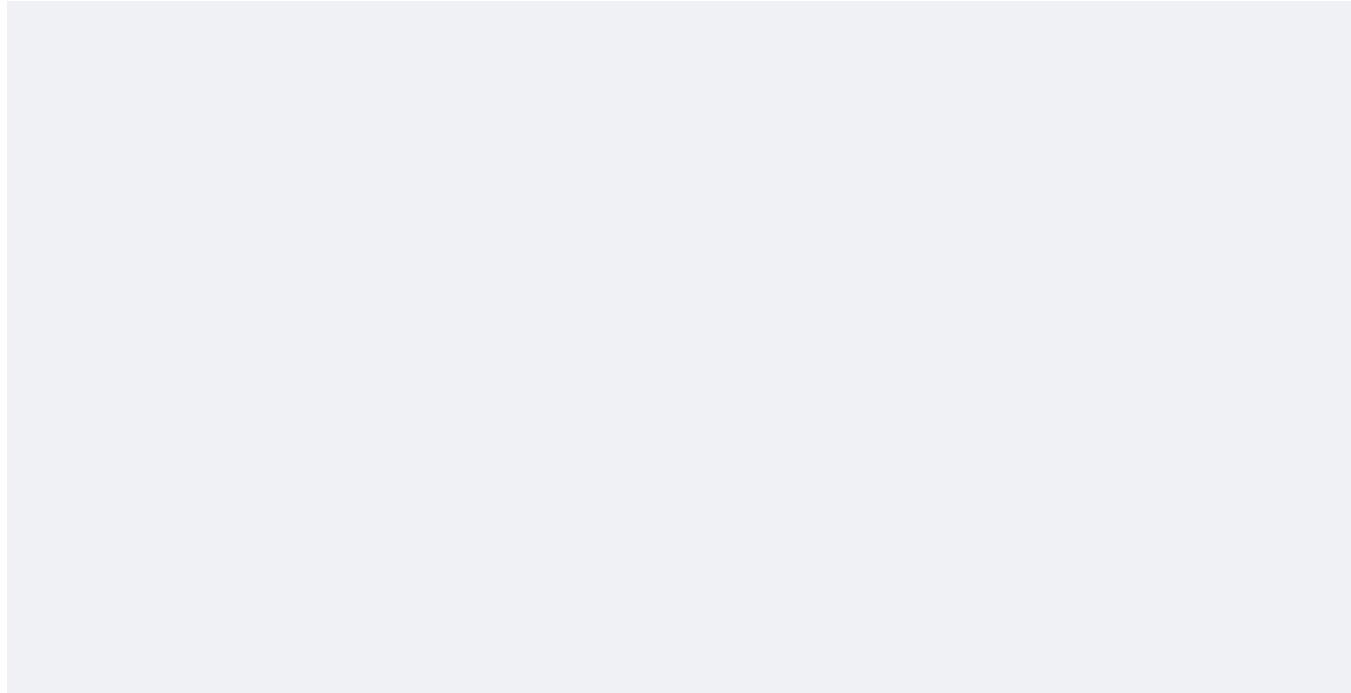
³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

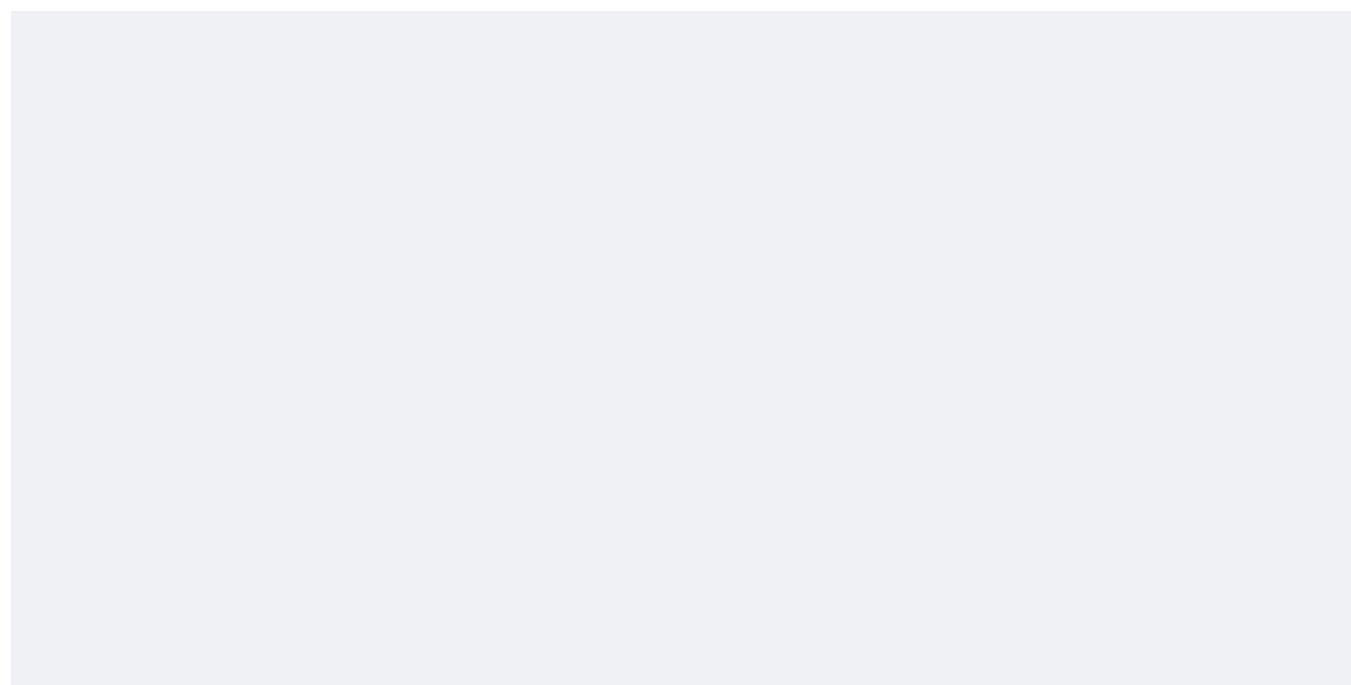
³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

➔ DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE



➔ APPLICATION DISCUSSION



⌚ DIVINE PARTICIPATION

- What step will you take in this next week to be the best version of you, and to be a good neighbor to people who need help?
- How can you show, in action, what you might believe theologically? Especially to a difficult person or situation? In other words, how can you let God's love for that person show through you, especially when you have little love for them yourself?

I commit to...

⌚ CLOSING PRAYER

BEING A NEIGHBOR

3: MARY AND MARTHA



BIG IDEA: The story of Mary and Martha might be familiar to some of us.

What does it teach us about being a neighbor?

What does it teach us about who Jesus is?

→ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

→ SUGGESTED OPENING PRAYER

→ SCRIPTURE READING



Luke 10:38-42 (New International Version)

(Circle key phrases or verses that stand out to you)

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

 **DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE**

 **APPLICATION DISCUSSION**

⌚ DIVINE PARTICIPATION

- What step will you take in this next week to better relate to one of your neighbors?
- Have you considered how your home could be a sanctuary to your neighbors?

I commit to...

⌚ CLOSING PRAYER

BEING A NEIGHBOR

4: BEING SENT



BIG IDEA: What does it mean to “be sent” as a disciple of Jesus, to be part of his work of bringing in the kingdom?

→ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

→ SUGGESTED OPENING PRAYER

→ SCRIPTURE READING



Luke 10:1-23 (New International Version)

(Circle key phrases or verses that stand out to you)

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

²He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’

⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.

⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you.

⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,

¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you.

Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’

¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.

¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens?

No, you will go down to Hades.

¹⁶ "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

¹⁸ He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²² "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²³ Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see."

 **DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE**

 **APPLICATION DISCUSSION**

⌚ DIVINE PARTICIPATION

How does this story of Jesus and the 70 missionaries impact how you will be a better neighbor?

I commit to...

⌚ CLOSING PRAYER

BEING A NEIGHBOR

5: PLACE SHARING



BIG IDEA: Exploring place-sharing as a concept and practical action.

→ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

→ SUGGESTED OPENING PRAYER

→ SCRIPTURE READING



2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (New International Version)

(Circle key phrases or verses that stand out to you)

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

 **DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE**

 **APPLICATION DISCUSSION**

⌚ DIVINE PARTICIPATION

What might place-sharing with your neighbor look like?

*Don't walk behind me, I may not lead.
Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow.
Just walk beside me and be my friend.*
-Albert Camus, French philosopher

I commit to...

⌚ CLOSING PRAYER

BEING A NEIGHBOR

6: PARTICIPATING IN CHRIST'S WORK AS A NEIGHBOR



BIG IDEA: How do we participate in Christ's mission to transform the world by love in the power of the Spirit?

→ WELCOME/ICEBREAKER

→ SUGGESTED OPENING PRAYER

→ SCRIPTURE READING



John 20:19-22 (New International Version)

(Circle key phrases or verses that stand out to you)

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

 **DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE**

 **APPLICATION DISCUSSION**

⌚ DIVINE PARTICIPATION

How can our small group plan an activity where we engage our neighborhood?

Have we done previous activities or events? What has worked well? What are the needs or interests of the people in this neighborhood?

I commit to...

CLOSING PRAYER  10 mins

*Eternal Friend,
grant me an ease
to breathe deeply of this moment,
this light,
this miracle of now.
Beneath the din and fury
of great movements
and harsh news
and urgent crises,
make me attentive still
to good news,
to small occasions,
and the grace of what is possible
for me to be,
to do,
to give,
to receive,
that I may miss neither my neighbor's gift
nor my enemy's need.*

-From *Guerrillas of Grace*,
by Ted Loder