

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Small Group Questions

Part 1: Love Where You Live

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Read

Matthew 22:34–40; Acts 17:26; Luke 16:10; and John 6:44

Reflect

In Matthew 22, Jesus is asked what commandment is greatest. His answer? To love God, and love your neighbor as yourself. “Neighbor” may refer to all fellow men and women, people within your daily sphere, or literally, mean the people who live beside you. What impact have the neighbors living in your immediate vicinity had on you? What impact have you had on them?

Pastor Josh Surratt offers us three ways to become a better neighbor:

1. Develop friendships
 - a. Do you believe God placed you where you live for a reason? Explain.
 - b. Do you know the names of your neighbors?
 - c. Does a particular neighbor come to mind that you should attempt to get to know?
 - i. Why do you think that person might have come to mind?
 - ii. Are you open to God presenting a different reason?
2. Discover stories.
 - a. How well do you really know your neighbors? Describe your current relationships with them.
 - i. Do you know what they’re going through? What they celebrate or worry about?
 - b. Has hearing a neighbor’s story or testimony ever affected how you view him or her?
 - c. If you know the background story of a neighbor who might be a little difficult, how has that colored your later interactions with them?
 - d. Have you ever felt compelled to share your story with a neighbor?
 - i. What was the result?
3. Determine next steps.
 - a. What intentional methods or strategy could you use to meet more of your neighbors?
 - i. More time spent in the front yard? Going for walks? Other?
 - ii. What small steps can you take towards being a “good” neighbor?
 - b. How might you discern what role God has in mind for you to play in a neighbor’s life?

Neighbors are not a project, but rather, people to care for. Jesus tells us very simply to love God and love our neighbors. What might our neighborhoods look like if we actually did? How can you become a better steward of the place where you live?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?