

The Art of Neighboring: Motives Matter
Week 4 // Weekly
June 28-July 4, 2020

*Let participants know whether they should watch the video before your group meeting or if you will be watching during the meeting.

Getting Started –

- Welcome people as they arrive
- If you have someone new, please have people introduce themselves.
- Get to know each other better. Ask: "If you could live anywhere on the planet, where would you live and why?"
- Ask: "What was the "next step" that you shared the last time we were together? How did it go?" Go around the group and have everyone share.

Discussion Questions – *(watch video here if your group didn't watch in advance)*

- **What was your biggest take away from this week's video? What stuck out to you? What did you like? What was difficult or confusing?**
- Read **1 Thessalonians 2:8b and Matthew 5:14-16**
 - **Are you comfortable sharing your story and telling people about the impact Jesus has had on your life? When did you last share your story with someone? What makes it hard to do this?** Most people will likely not have shared their story in the recent past. Again, this is NOT the time for a guilt trip. Let God do the convicting. We just want people to be honest about where they are at and why. There are many reasons people do not share their faith. Hopefully they will see it doesn't have to be hard or scary.
- **"We don't love our neighbors to convert them; we love them because we are converted."** Discuss the tension in this statement.
- **Instead of sharing your story first, have you ever tried asking others about their story? How can you focus on listening and create a safe place for honest two-way sharing? What kind of questions help people share their story at a deeper level? What's the deepest moment you've ever had hearing another person's story?** Many people don't share their story because a) it doesn't come up, b) they don't know where to start, or c) they are afraid they don't know all the right Christian answers and verses. Sometimes fear comes because we are too focused on sharing and not enough on listening. If we would simply ask someone to tell us their story or spiritual journey, they are likely to tell us. If we are a safe friend, they are also likely to ask us about our story. This is not manipulation; it is simply how normal conversation happens in real relationships. We are interested in the other person and what we can learn from them and vice versa.

Moving Forward –

- **Do the Block Map** – Have people share if they were able to fill in any of the blank spaces. Were they able to meet or have conversations with neighbors who might not be in those 8 houses, but who live in their neighborhood? Decide if each neighbor is a stranger, an acquaintance, or a relationship.
- **Identify one neighbor** that you are going to pray for during the next week. Take time to pray in the group for the neighbors that were mentioned.
- **Share one small “next step”** that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days. Have them share that step aloud and write it down so that everyone can be praying throughout the week.
- Encourage each member of your group to **sign up for Bless Every Home** on the Northside Events page if they haven’t yet.
- **Remind them of the next meeting time and close in prayer.**

On Your Own

Reflect on the biggest obstacles that exist for you to share your faith. Journal some of your fears and prayers regarding sharing your faith. What have you learned about neighboring in general?