

The Art of Neighboring: The Art of Receiving
Week 5 // Weekly
July 5-July 11, 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: "What is a spiritual story/testimony/answered prayer you would like to share?"
- 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 Kings 17:7-16**
 - **Why didn't God just provide for Elijah directly? How do you think it felt to have to ask the widow for help? How do you think the widow felt?** This must have been difficult for both of them. God chose this as a way of showing how He was stretching out to those outside of the boundaries of the Jewish people. Jesus refers to this moment in Luke 4:26. It would have been difficult for both of them to make sense of this moment but they both grew to understand more about God and what He is like.
- **What are your neighbors knowledgeable about/or passionate about? How could you enter into their world and allow them to serve you?** Our neighbors have a lot to offer and are often willing to offer it if we will humble ourselves and ask. We want to learn how to watch for ways to humble ourselves and give people the joy of serving us.
- **Are you good at allowing other people to care for you? What makes it hard? How often do you ask for help from someone outside of your immediate family? What are it might be hard to ask for help? (Power, pride, not wanting to be a burden, etc.)** Allow for open sharing. Real relationship requires give and take – nobody with all the power and nobody with all the need. It steals a person's dignity to force them to always be in the position of need and to never receive help from them. We should try to maintain balance as much as possible. If we are always the one in power, we should ask for help. If we are always the one in need, we should realize we have a lot to give others.
- **"The art of receiving is not complicated. It comes down to being aware of our own needs. It's about opening our eyes, then being vulnerable enough to ask and**

receive." What current needs do you have that a neighbor might be able to help you with? Allow for open sharing.

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.**