



Hidey Ho Neighbor Who Is My Neighbor?

#nphideyhoneighbor

Week 1

1 of 2

May 24, 2020

Bottom Line: Go and do likewise.

Icebreaker: Who was a favorite or most unusual neighbor you have had from childhood until now? What made them earn this place in your memory?

Key Verse: *“Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.* Luke 10:36 NLT

Jesus would make the most irritating and crystal-clear statements. Luke records a time when a man was trying to avoid clarity. Jesus would not allow that to happen. Jesus had just talked about the great commandments and said that besides loving God with all we have, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. This guy didn't want to love everybody, so he tried to make a loophole. “Who is my neighbor?” In response, Jesus told the famous story of the Good Samaritan.

Through the story, Jesus illustrated three common attitudes toward neighbors we don't want to love: Avoidance—If I don't pay attention, it's not my responsibility. Apathy—I see the need, but I am too self-centered to do anything about it. Action—that was the attitude of the Good Samaritan. He saw the need and he moved toward it. In order to love our neighbors well we need to: **Be observant.** Everyone has needs and wounds. Why don't we see them? Because most people hide their wounds, and we are not observant. To be observant means to notice or perceive something and register it as being significant. **Be compassionate.** We all have two fundamental needs: to be understood and to be validated. Listening meets both. **Be proactive.** Don't procrastinate. Do it now. Take the initiative to do what you know to be right whether you feel like it or not. I must be willing to be interrupted and inconvenienced. I must also move against my fears that would stop me from helping my neighbor. **Be generous.** There is always a cost for compassion. You will have to sacrifice your time, money, energy, maybe even your reputation.

The Good Samaritan's motives were pure and unmixed. He was gaining nothing from this other than knowing that God was watching and taking notes. Who is my neighbor? Am I taking action? What would happen if every believer in our communities made an attempt to build strong relationships with the eight households closest to them?

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Pervasive loneliness has widespread effects. What are some of the effects you have observed or felt?

Have you ever been lonely? What helped or what might have helped?

If you claim to be a Christian, and you're not kind—you are not a Christian. Agree or disagree? Why?

Jesus was one of those people who was able to bring clarity, which means two things: a sense of discomfort and a sense of urgency.

When things get clear, we feel compelled to act. When has that been true for you?

When you do not take the appropriate action to love your neighbor well, is it more often because of avoidance, apathy, or something else? Discuss.

LOOK IT OVER <<<

The key to becoming more compassionate: Don't ask “What's wrong with them?” Ask, “What happened to them?” How and why does that change your perspective?

Hurt people hurt people. Happy people don't hurt people. Reflect and discuss. How is that true for you?

Loving others requires me to be willing to be interrupted, inconvenienced, and to face my fears. Which of those represents the biggest struggle for you? Why?

Have you ever risked your reputation to help someone in need?

Most people struggle to build relationships with their neighbors because of a lack of value, a lack of time, or a lack of trust. How can we overcome these struggles?

NEXT STEPS

1. Answer this question every day: Who is my neighbor?
2. Think of a neighbor for whom you will pray daily, and work to build a relationship.
3. Decide on a neighborly thing to do for someone this week.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Go and do likewise.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Leviticus 16:16-19

Tuesday: Galatians 6:10

Wednesday: Romans 15:2

Thursday: James 1:27

Friday: Romans 12:10

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)