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# NEIGHBORS - WEEK # 3

## Week # 3: Step Two - Discovering Stories



What does it mean to be a neighbor? How can I develop relationships, share faith in Christ, and serve others better? During this Renovation Series, we'll be exploring these questions and also utilizing materials from Bill Hybel's Book, "Just Walk Across the Room." We encourage you to purchase a copy for your own spiritual growth.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tonight we'll be discussing the second step in sharing your faith with others: discovering stories. Think of a time in your life when you had a conversation with another person, and how their sharing of a story gave you insight about who they are as a person.

2. **Read Acts 17:16-34.**

Describe how Paul's journey through Athens is one way of discovering the stories of the people. Discuss as a group a few different strategies for discovering the stories of other people. What skills can followers of Jesus use to discover the stories, ideologies, values, and faith of other people?

3. How does Paul use his discoveries to share faith in Christ with those on Mars Hill?

While Paul is clearly a follower of Jesus Christ, he doesn't overtly begin his conversation with the Athenians by attacking them. Rather, he starts with the desire they have to understand truth and spiritual matters. How can we employ similar strategies of listening and beginning with similar desires/values/hopes/dreams in mind to connect with and engage others about matters of faith?

4. As you think about the shift from step one to step two (Develop Friendships - > Discover Stories), good listening skills and asking good open ended questions are very important. These skills help you understand and "thicken" the story (to gain more understanding about their lives). What are some good principles for quality listening and asking good open ended questions?

5. What specific step will you take in your life this week to discover the stories with people who do not follow Jesus Christ in your workplace, neighborhood, or other social circles? How will you employ good listening skills, compassion, and other strategies discussed in # 2 above in these conversations?

### **BE THE REVOLUTION**

Discovering the stories of others helps us understand people's spiritual sensitivity, and where to develop the beginning points of spiritual conversations.

### **RENOVATING THE HEART**

*"...Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious."* (Acts 17:22).