
NEIGHBORS - WEEK # 4

Week # 4: Step Three - Discerning Next Steps



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 final step in sharing your faith with others: discerning next steps. Share a time in your life when you had a conversation with another person, and how their asking a probing question or offering a different viewpoint led you to deeper faith in Christ.

2. **Read John 4:1-26.**

How does Jesus employ the first two steps of sharing faith with others in the passage? Realizing that he meets the woman on her turf (the well) and discovers the woman's story of being a Samaritan and her feelings toward Jewish people, what probing interactions does he then make?

How do these questions lead the Samaritan woman toward the next steps of faith? How do Jesus' next interactions with the Samaritan woman model potential questions or possible avenues of engagement for us when it comes to step three - discerning next steps?

3. Does Jesus attack the Samaritan woman's beliefs?

While he challenges them, he does not attack them. How can we offer gentle challenges, opportunities for new understanding, or even correction if need be like Jesus does in our spiritual conversations with others? Why is it important to have a relationship with others (step one) first?

4. How do the series of next steps come to a point of revelation for the woman about who Jesus is, and the desire that he has for the Samaritan woman's life? In what way should our conversations come to the same climactic point in the lives of others?

5. What specific step will you take in your life this week to discern next steps with people who do not follow Jesus Christ in your workplace, neighborhood, or other social circles? How will you employ the strategies learned tonight in these conversations?

BE THE REVOLUTION

Discerning next steps helps deepen our relationships, creates opportunity for understanding, and invites the Holy Spirit to probe the hearts of those who have not yet committed to following Jesus.

RENOVATING THE HEART

"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again" (John 4:13-14).