

Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series: Neighbors

We are familiar with the basic teaching of Jesus to “love thy neighbor as thyself;” but who really is my neighbor? The person across the street, in the shared cubicle, on the same school bus... sure!! But what about the family that lives on the other side of town? The ones who just arrived as refugees? Or the one who stands on the corner with a sign? Do we really love these neighbors? And can we really love them without knowing them; their stories, their pain, and their needs?

Message description:

The Good Samaritan is one of the most well-known passages of scripture; love your neighbor as yourself. Do this, and you will live. But the lawyer asked Jesus a clarifying question: who is my neighbor? Is it based on physical proximity or social proximity (the people most like you)? Based on this parable, Jesus seems to be defining your neighbor as *anyone* who has a need. But can we really know the need of our neighbor without knowing them as a person of worth and child of God? It seems that in order to love our neighbor, it must start with *knowing* them.

Key Scriptures

Luke 10:25-37

Additional sources for independent study:

- Sermon by Martin Luther King Jr, Memphis, April 3, 1968: https://www.speeches-usa.com/Transcripts/martin_luther_king-mountaintop.html

Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. Do you feel like know the neighbors who live on your street or in your building? Why or why not?
2. What did you learn or hear differently about the parable of the Good Samaritan this week?
3. What set the good Samaritan apart from the Priest and Levite?
4. Jesus redefines our neighbor as anyone who has a vulnerability or a need, not just people we live nearby or people within our social circles. Throughout this series, we will be exploring who is our neighbor in terms of need. Based on this definition, who is our neighbor within the community of Louisville? Or asked another way, who do you think is most in need in our city today?
5. At the end of the parable, Jesus asked the lawyer, "who in this parable acted like a neighbor?" How can you plan to be a good neighbor this week?
6. What is one small step you can take this week to get to know a neighbor in your life?

Preparing for next week's teaching

Read the whole chapter of 1 John 4. Spend some time reflecting on its teachings.

- What stands out to you upon reading it?
- What do you think it means to be *perfected* in love? (vv 12, 17, 18)

Catching up

Welcome back to another year of house group! As you re-convene for another year of house group, spend some time thinking and praying about your hopes and dreams for the group this year.

1. What do you hope to get out of house group this year?
2. What is one thing you hope the house group does this year?
3. What is something you would like to study or learn more about this year? [send Rachel your answers!]
4. Where would you like to see your house group serve this year?

Close in prayer over your leaders, the group, the year ahead, and how God will challenge you to grow deeper in love with God and one another! And your neighbor!