

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:

It is the nature and mission of the church to be global. The Church is called to be *witnesses* to the ends of the earth, telling the story of Jesus to our neighbors locally, regionally, and globally. The vision of the kingdom of God in Revelation reflects this truth with a gathering of believers from every tribe, nation, and tongue who are united in worship and sharing in one confession; Jesus Christ is Lord! Here at Revolution, we are serious about being witnesses through our release ministries of JAM, HEAT, 4th Avenue, Grace Kids, and the missionaries we support GO Ministries. And lucky for us, Louisville is more culturally diverse than ever before! Which means we have opportunities every day to be a good neighbor to people from all over the world. May we go and do likewise.

Key Scriptures

1 John 4:7-21; Revelation 7:9-10

Additional sources for independent study from last week:

- Video on the 9th Street Divide (19min): <https://youtu.be/rnDuCGOoVlc>
- Video on the history of Walnut Street (7min): <https://youtu.be/OVgtVhdgI94>
- Bridging the Divide: an interview with Walt and Shae Smith (32min): <https://youtu.be/zH4PX1PCunE>
- West of 9th photography blog by Walt and Shae Smith: <https://www.westofninth.com/about>
- Frazier Museum: West of 9th Curator Tour (15min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSSTkDbYShE>
- WLKY highlights West of 9th Exhibit (3min): https://youtu.be/Fml_4UfgaBI

Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. Throughout this series, which challenge did you enjoy the most? Which did you find most difficult?
2. Who did you get to know, or what did you learn about our city, that helped you grow in knowledge and love of your neighbors?
3. As a church, how do you think we can or should become more global in our witness?
4. What do you appreciate most about the global nature of the Church (big C, universal)?

Going Deeper:

Read Ephesians 1:3-10 and Ephesians 4:1-16.

For context to the letter to the church in Ephesus, read:

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-18-2/commentary-on-ephesians-41-16-5>

- What does Ephesians 1:10 say about the mission of Christ? What do you think “the unity of all things in heaven and on earth under Christ” will or should look like?
- Based on Ephesians 4:1-16, what does a unified gathering of believers look like? How does Paul describe it?
- What is the basis of this unity? What is it not?
- Why is the unity of the Church important? What could or should that unity look like today?