

## THE SIMPLEST WAY TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Andy Deane · 3/26/2023 · [Luke 10:25-37](#); [Matthew 22:37-40](#); [Romans 12:13](#); [Genesis 12:3](#)

Today as we continue to talk about biblical hospitality, we'll identify who our neighbors are, and how by changing our personal culture we can be more welcoming to them, so they are introduced to God's blessing through us.

[Romans 15:7](#), *welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you!*

### Who exactly are our neighbors?

- [Luke 10:29-37](#), "...who is my neighbor?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."
- [Matthew 22:37-40](#), 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
- Consider printing a map of your neighborhood to help you identify your mission field.
- Identify 9 neighbors where you (1) LIVE, (2) WORK/LEARN, and (3) PLAY.

### How can we meet our neighbors?

- [Romans 12:13](#), ...Practice hospitality.
- 1. [Be willing to initiate](#): if you see a neighbor, go talk to them.
- 2. [Go outside more](#): take daily (or weekly) walks. Walk your dog. Wash your car.
- 3. [Use Local Facebook groups](#): Join them, interact & help neighbors, post about church events.
- 4. [Join NextDoor.com & MeetUp.com](#): Join or start common interest groups in your city.
- 5. [Use food](#): Host a lemonade stand with kids. Drop off cookies with a nice note.
- 6. [Host an annual event](#): A party, cook-out, garage sale, or your kids end of season sports party.
- 7. [Start a "Neighbor Night"](#): Grill in your front yard with yard games each month.
- Download the [100 ways to meet your neighbor](#) PDF at [www.go2cornerstone.com/neighbor](http://www.go2cornerstone.com/neighbor).

### How do we B.L.E.S.S. our neighbors!

- The strategy of God from the beginning was "blessing"!
- [Genesis 12:3](#), ...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you...
- [1 Peter 3:9](#), ...bless, for to this you were called...
- Use the B.L.E.S.S. framework for a relational style of evangelism that involves simple hospitality:
  - **(B)egin with prayer**
    - Pray daily for the 9 people you identified above
    - [2 Peter 3:9](#), *The Lord is...not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*
  - **(L)isten with care**
    - [James 1:19](#), ...be quick to listen, slow to speak...
    - Move from: Facts > Common Interests > Pain Points > Spiritual Stories
  - **(E)at with others**
    - At the table, strangers can belong before they believe!
    - [Luke 5:27-32](#), 27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. 29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 Jesus answered them, "It is not

*the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

- **(S)erve with love**
    - We don't serve to convert, we serve because we actually care!
    - Look to serve their pain points: a job loss, a break up, health issues, etc.
    - 1 Peter 4:10, *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*
  - **(S)hare your story**
    - Your Testimony: (1) My life before Jesus (2) How I first believed in Jesus (3) My life since I believed
    - A God-Sighting Story: (1) What was your personal pain? (2) What did that pain do to you? (3) How did God show up? (4) What difference did it make? (5) Invite a response (i.e. can you relate?)
    - 1 Peter 3:15, *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*
  - Who will you B.L.E.S.S. this week? Make this a daily & weekly practice to change your community.
  - When we do this, we are actually serving Jesus: Matthew 25:34-36; 40, <sup>34</sup> *“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ... <sup>40</sup> ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*
- 

#### **SERMON SERIES CHURCH-WIDE CHALLENGE:**

Over the next 2 weeks we are giving everyone a simple goal to live out the sermon series:

- 1) Learn a new neighbor's name this week
- 2) Invite them over (or out) for coffee or a meal

Afterwards, let us know how it went by texting “[neighbor](#)” to (951)425-4425.

Download all the resources you saw today at [www.go2cornerstone.com/neighbor](http://www.go2cornerstone.com/neighbor)