


PRACTICAL NEIGHBORING

Use the map below to begin mapping out your neighbors. Fill in all of the information you know about the people that live next to, across from and behind you. Neighboring begins with a name.

WHO IS MY **NEIGHBOR?**

	 YOU ARE HERE	



WEEK ONE :: DISCUSSION GUIDE

YOUR NEIGHBOR IS YOUR NEIGHBOR TOO!

A neighborhood by definition is a fixed location where messy lives intersect and overlap. Living in a neighborhood can be an adventure.

There's the neighbor who parties too often, too loud and too late. There's the neighbor whose dog will not stop barking every time you try to steal a tranquil moment on your back porch. There are the neighbors whose heated quarrels creep past the walls of their living room and uncomfortably bleed into yours. There's the neighbor whose son is constantly in trouble with the law and who you are almost certain is taking the FedEx packages off your front porch. Then there's the neighbor who's turned their side yard into the most unsightly yet fascinating collection of oddities you have ever seen. And then there's the neighbor who won't even say, "hi." He rebuffs your attempts to make a minimal human connection with casual glance and an indifferent grunt.

Your neighborhood is a world of its own. It's full of people. They all need Jesus. They all need you. And if we are going to live out the realities of the gospel in a meaningful way the place to start may be right outside your front door...

For the next year we (along with 250 other like-minded churches in the greater Austin area) are going to take up the challenge to "Love Where We Live." We are going to imagine together what might happen if our homes were small gospel outposts on every street and cul-de-sac in the city. What if your home was the one people were naturally drawn to, and a place where quiet gospel conversations began to take shape in the ordinary give and take of everyday life.

We kick off our study with the simple reminder that although the concept of neighboring is far bigger than your neighbors, your neighbors are your neighbors too. And your neighborhood may be the best place to begin the adventure of living ordinary lives with extraordinary gospel intentionality.

Jesus may just use you to transform a neighborhood, and even if he doesn't he will almost certainly use your neighbors to transform you.

READ LUKE 10:25-28

1. When we ask the question, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" we usually mean, "How can I be sure I will go to heaven when I die?" When a first century Jew asked the same question they meant, "What do I need to do to live under God's blessing both now and in the age to come?" or "How can I experience the blessing of the age to come here and now?" How would we normally answer someone who asked, "How can I be sure I have eternal life?"
2. What is surprising about Jesus' answer?
3. What does loving your neighbors have to do with experiencing God's blessing?

READ LUKE 10:29-37

1. If the priest and the Levite were going down from Jerusalem to Jericho it means that they were headed home after serving in the temple. They not only avoid being a neighbor they go out of their way not to be a neighbor by passing by on the other side of the road.
 - ❖ How do you think the priest and the Levite might have justified their unwillingness to get involved?
 - ❖ What are some of the ways we justify not being more involved in the lives of our neighbors?
2. How would you describe Jesus' definition of a neighbor?
3. What happens when we define neighbor too broadly?
4. What happens when we define neighbor too narrowly?
5. While the concept of neighbor is bigger than your actual neighbors, your neighbors are your neighbors too.
 - ❖ What are some things we can do to be better neighbors to our actual neighbors?
 - ❖ What are some things we can do to take the art of neighboring beyond our neighborhood?

"We live in a culture that is all about me: my rights, my pleasure, my fulfillment. God's people have an altogether different motto: "It's not about me; it's about God and others." [This motto] makes a profound difference when we enter the public square [the neighborhood], the workplace or the home"

Everyday Church – Pg. 100