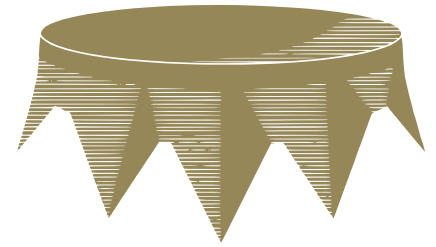


WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? PRACTICING NEIGHBORLY LOVE



REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

READ: LUKE 10:25-37

Reflect: What observations do you have about this passage and how it relates to the commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself?”

“HE SAW HIM”

Who are some people that you often pass by that God is inviting you to see? Use the questions below to explore this:

1. Who is on the road of your life already? It may be helpful to start making a list of people that come to mind.
 - **Neighborhood:** Who are your physical neighbors that God may want you to see?
 - **School and work:** Who are classmates or colleagues that God may want you to see?
 - **Hobbies:** Who are the people that you interact with in your hobbies that God may want you to see?
 - **Other:** Who else in your life might God want you to see?
2. Within the spaces listed above, who do you see that is hurting, in need, misunderstood, or marginalized?
3. If your current rhythms of life don't put you in proximity to people who are marginalized, is there anything that God might want you to change in order to be able to see more of the pain and brokenness in our society?

Take time to pray that God would help you to pay attention to who He wants you to see.

“HE HAD COMPASSION”

What do you feel toward the people in your life that you often pass by? Use the questions below to explore this:

1. What do you actually feel about the people in your life that you often pass by? (indifference, compassion, contempt, sadness, fear, etc.)
2. Are there particular people or types of people that you struggle to have compassion for?
3. What do you think God feels toward those same people?

Take time to pray that God would fill you with His compassion for those people.

“HE WENT TO HIM”

What “roads” may you need to cross to care for others?

1. What is challenging about moving toward people in need?
2. How could you learn more about the needs of the people in your life?
3. What practical steps might God be calling you to take?

Pray that God would give you the courage to take practical steps to get to know the lives and cares of others in your context.

HE SACRIFICED TO CARE FOR HIM

What sacrifices might you need to make in order to show Christ-like love?

Jesus redefines the idea of neighborly love by calling His followers to an others-oriented way of thinking about your relationships: “whatever you would have others do for you, do this for them.” This is the way of neighborly love modeled by the Samaritan.

1. Where might you need to re-orient the way that you approach your existing relationships?

Sacrificial love for others can take many forms. Here are some other ways to consider sacrificial love:

2. Is there someone that God might be calling you to forgive?
3. Is there a way that God may be leading you to serve or support someone?
4. Is there a way God might be calling you to encourage or bless someone?

See the reverse for a guide to sharing neighborly love through meals. For more series content, visit parkchurch.org/neighbor.



PRACTICING NEIGHBORLY LOVE: TWO MEALS

Adapted from *Practicing the Way*

One of the ways that Jesus models neighborly love is by inviting unexpected people to share a meal with Him around a table. After reflecting on the questions from the previous page, we encourage you to try putting neighborly love into practice by creating space in your life for two different meals:

I. A MEAL WITH A NEIGHBOR

Invite one or more neighbors to share a meal with you (and your family or roommates if applicable) to get to know them better and lay a deeper foundation for friendship and care.

Pray and Invite

Start by taking some time to pray through your reflections from the previous page, then invite the Holy Spirit to bring someone to your mind that you could try to share a meal with in the coming weeks. This might be a physical neighbor, a classmate, a colleague that you don't know well, or perhaps someone that is only currently a casual friend or an acquaintance.

Pray for that person, and then reach out to invite them to share a meal with you. If the response is a "no," or if a "yes" feels unlikely, don't give up! Continue to seek the Lord for who to ask next, and keep the "door open" in case your first invitee has a change of mind.

Share a Meal:

This next part is pretty straightforward—eat and drink with somebody! Here are a few suggestions:

- Ideally, open your home or apartment. If that doesn't work, invite them to a shared space (a restaurant, café, etc.)
- This might be a great time to learn how to cook a few good meals. A quick search of the Internet will yield loads of easy-to-prepare, super delicious meals.
- As you host the meal, think of creative ways to express the love and welcome of Jesus toward your guest.

During your time together, ask questions, listen, and don't be afraid to share meaningful conversation. At the same time, don't be afraid of small talk either. You can view small talk as a form of hospitality, of creating room for the guest to get comfortable. Just focus on loving them, not on "selling them" on Jesus.

Pray for your guest at some point during your time together—maybe before or after the meal (it is often helpful to ask permission to pray for them: "do you mind if I take a moment to pray for you?"). Whatever you want to see God do in their life, pray into that.

Reflect & Pray

After the meal, take time to reflect. What did you learn about yourself, your neighbor, and God through this practice? What was hard? What was encouraging? Take time to pray in response to what God is teaching you.

II. A MEAL WITH OTHER FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

Invite someone from the Park Church family to share a meal with you in order to get to know them better and to show them Christ-like love and encouragement.

Pray and Invite

Take some time to pray through your reflections from the previous page, then invite the Holy Spirit to bring someone from the Church to your mind that you could share a meal with in the coming weeks. Think especially of people who have a different life experience than you. Families, look for single people to invite into your life and single people, look for families! Look for people with no family in town, for widows and widowers, for people traveling who need a place to stay, for the migrant or the refugee (many of whom are Christians coming from Venezuela), or for anybody else that God might be wanting to encourage.

Pray for that person or family, and then reach out to invite them to share a meal with you. Again, if the response is a "no," or if a "yes" feels unlikely, don't give up! Continue to seek the Lord for who to ask next, and keep the "door open" in case your first invitee has a change of mind.

Share a meal:

Some relationships in the church can form easily and naturally, others require greater intentionality and care. Inviting someone from the church that you don't know well to share a meal with you can be a beautiful expression of Christ-like love and hospitality. Here are some ideas:

- Ideally, open your home or apartment. If that doesn't work, invite them to a shared space (a restaurant, café, etc.).
- As you eat together, welcome the Holy Spirit. Pay attention to the movements of your heart and look for ways to care for and encourage your guest(s).
- And remember, as a follower of Jesus, when you come into a home you come as both host and guest. To give and receive.

Pray for your guest(s) at some point during your time together. Pray that God would encourage them in their walk with Jesus.

Reflect & Pray

After the meal, take time to reflect. What did you learn about yourself, others, and God through this practice? What was hard? What was encouraging? Take time to pray in response to what God is teaching you.