



Sermon Series:

BBQs & Baseball

The Art of Neighbouring

Speaker: Rod Heppell

Date: April 28, 2024



GROUP GUIDE

Connect (25 min)

Ice Breaker: Can you remember any of your neighbours when you were growing up? Do any of them stand out (either positive, or negative, or just plain weird)?

Message Discussion (35 min)

1. As you think of the church as a “whirlpool” (where more together can make a greater impact than alone), what do you see as the benefits of doing life as part of a larger community than just on your own?
2. When you assess your living situation, what do you make of your neighbours? Be honest. Do you like your neighbours? Do you have friendships with them? Are they challenging? Share with your group what your neighbour situation is like (condo, apartment, complex, detached home) and what it feels like to live with your neighbours.
3. Rod shared the idea that God might have you exactly where he wants you with those neighbours. How might that thought encourage and motivate you?
4. Take a moment to read the whole story of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:30-37. Listen and take note of one main thing that strikes you or resonates with you as you hear it.
5. Those in the story who the original audience may have expected to be the heroes of the story (the Priest and the Levite) weren't in the end. When looking into the context, some of their reasons for not stopping seemed understandable. What, if any, are the “understandable” things that might stop Christians from “stopping” in a situation like that?
6. The Samaritan was not only the unsung hero, but the hated hero. This person that they would have demeaned and rejected was actually doing the very things they should have been doing. Have you ever experienced a time where someone who wasn't a Christian showed more love, generosity, care, etc. than you may have in a moment? How did that make you feel?

7. What are the current barriers to connecting with your neighbours?
8. How might seeing your neighbours through a new lens of faith change how you live and interact with them?

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Simply pray that God would help you see your neighbours through a lens of faith, that he has you exactly where he wants you.



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LEADER GUIDE

Connect (25 min)

Ice Breaker: Can you remember any of your neighbours when you were growing up? Do any of them stand out (either positive, or negative, or just plain weird)?

Prayer: *Lord, you are worthy of all of our love and devotion. We ask here that by your Holy Spirit we would increase in our love for you, but also in our love for others. As we talk here, guide us to the areas we need encouragement, where we need correction, where we need growth, where we need wisdom and insight. We come with open hearts and open hands. Speak to and through us as we gather, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Message Discussion (35 min)

1. As you think of the church as a “whirlpool” (where more together can make a greater impact than alone), what do you see as the benefits of doing life as part of a larger community than just on your own?
2. When you assess your living situation, what do you make of your neighbours? Be honest. Do you like your neighbours? Do you have friendships with them? Are they challenging? Share with your group what your neighbour situation is like (condo, apartment, complex, detached home) and what it feels like to live with your neighbours.
3. Rod shared the idea that God might have you exactly where he wants you with those neighbours. How might that thought encourage and motivate you? **We can often get stuck on the frustrations of our situation, not realising they are opportunities that God has placed us in.**
4. Take a moment to read the whole story of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:30-37. Listen and take note of one main thing that strikes you or resonates with you as you hear it.
5. Those in the story who the original audience may have expected to be the heroes of the story (the Priest and the Levite) weren't in the end. When looking into the context, some of their reasons for not stopping seemed understandable.

What, if any, are the “understandable” things that might stop Christians from “stopping” in a situation like that? **Think of the excuses we make to not help someone in need or to not connect with a neighbour (too busy, fear, etc.)**

6. The Samaritan was not only the unsung hero, but the hated hero. This person that they would have demeaned and rejected was actually doing the very things they should have been doing. Have you ever experienced a time where someone who wasn't a Christian showed more love, generosity, care, etc. than you may have in a moment? How did that make you feel? **Sometimes we are motivated by the example of other Christians, sometimes we are motivated by what not to do that non-Christians do. But then there are those moments where Christians miss the mark and non-Christians seem to get it.**
7. What are the current barriers to connecting with your neighbours? **These can be completely legitimate, or excuses.**
8. How might seeing your neighbours through a new lens of faith change how you live and interact with them?

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Simply pray that God would help you see your neighbours through a lens of faith, that he has you exactly where he wants you.

(If helpful, break into groups of Men/Women or 3-4 people. I would also recommend not simply listing many disconnected things from far removed aspects of your life, friends, or family, but focusing on those things in your own lives that need prayer that come out of this message or that come out of your 'highs and lows', and if necessary a few brief requests for other things going on)

Resources

Hyperlinked Scripture:

[Luke 10:25-37 \(Good Samaritan\)](#)

Resources:

[The Art of Neighbouring: Book \(Amazon\)](#), [Sermon Podcast](#)