



Sermon Series:
Baseball & BBQ's
The Art of Neighbouring
Speaker: Steve Sunby
Date: May 5, 2024



GROUP GUIDE

Connect (25 min)

Ice Breaker: Describe a challenging or awkward conversation you've had with a neighbour. Describe a good, natural, life-giving conversation you've had with a neighbour. What made the difference?

Message Discussion (35 min)

1. When thinking of neighbouring, why is it important to “talk to God about people before we talk to people about God”?
2. Take a moment to read Luke 10:1-11. While the specifics might not be totally applicable in our day and age, are there any principles in there that might apply to our context today?
3. Steve shared a progression of principles to live by from this passage when seeking to be witnesses to our neighbours: “pray, go, meet, hang out, meet needs, share” Which of these might excite you most? Which might scare you most?
4. When we pray for God to work in our neighbours lives, Steve shared that we are often the answer to that prayer. How might this change how we view prayer for the lost and how we pray?
5. In Luke 7:44, as Jesus allowed a prostitute to wash his feet at Simon's house, Jesus said “look at her!” Simon had labelled her and so couldn't see her how God sees her. Why is it so easy for us to label people? Are there any of your neighbours you have labelled and therefore struggle to see how God sees them?
6. While we might agree that conversations are good to have, the idea of conversations might make us nervous. Why might it be good to use questions with genuine curiosity as a place to start in conversation?
7. Steve shared that “good deeds lead to good will which leads to good conversations” How have you seen that play out in your own life, either through you or to you?

8. When we think of evangelism our barriers can immediately come up because we think of sharing as being a sales person. Steve shared that “when evangelism becomes a method it becomes something we do to people.” Instead of sharing an awkward, canned, pre-planned message, how could evangelism look if it were more natural?
9. One of our challenges with being a witness is feeling like we need to know all the answers and suddenly be an apologist or theologian. How might the blind man’s saying in John 9:25 help us in our witness?

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Pray for open doors with your specific neighbours.



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LEADER GUIDE

Connect (25 min)

Ice Breaker: Describe a challenging or awkward conversation you've had with a neighbour. Describe a good, natural, life-giving conversation you've had with a neighbour. What made the difference?

Prayer: *Lord, help us to believe that you have placed us exactly where you want us. As we discuss, help us to grow in our awareness of our neighbours and then empower us to be salt and light right where we are. You are the "Lord of the Harvest" and the workers are few, help us to be those workers, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

Message Discussion (35 min)

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6. While we might agree that conversations are good to have, the idea of conversations might make us nervous. Why might it be good to use questions

with genuine curiosity as a place to start in conversation? **Anyone can ask a question and most people are pretty happy to talk about themselves and what is going on in their life.**

7. Steve shared that “good deeds lead to good will which leads to good conversations” How have you seen that play out in your own life, either through you or to you?
8. When we think of evangelism our barriers can immediately come up because we think of sharing as being a sales person. Steve shared that “when evangelism becomes a method it becomes something we do to people.” Instead of sharing an awkward, canned, pre-planned message, how could evangelism look if it were more natural? **People tend to immediately put walls up or misunderstand when we have a pre-planned message. People tend to be more open when they can sense you are being real and honest.**
9. One of our challenges with being a witness is feeling like we need to know all the answers and suddenly be an apologist or theologian. How might the blind man’s saying in John 9:25 help us in our witness?

Application & Prayer (20 min)

Praying Together: Pray for open doors with your specific neighbours.

(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 10:1-23 \(Sending out the 72\)](#), [John 9 \(I was blind but now I see\)](#), [Luke 7 \(Jesus and the prostitute\)](#), [Mark 10:45 \(Son of Man came to serve\)](#)

Resources:

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