

6 FOUR 6

6 (or more) people for 6 weeks around four themes:

- Food
- Accountability
- Conversation
- Prayer

The Art of Neighboring – RightNow Media

WEEK 1: Introductions and Setting the Stage

OPEN

Tell us about the neighborhood you grew up in (1st-2nd grade). Where was it? Who were your friends? What were the joys and challenges of growing up there?

Consider having everyone share briefly about their life in Jesus. It could be as simple as answering the question: When did Jesus become real to you?

What are your hopes for connecting in this group?

BIBLE EXPLORATION: Read Matthew 22: 36-40

What are some things you celebrate about yourself?

What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

PRAYER

Praise God for the journey of faith each of the participants have been on -- God's faithfulness.

Pray for awareness to see others as God sees them.

Pray for each other's needs for the week ahead.

6 FOUR 6

WEEK 2 (Session 1): Rediscovering the Art of Neighboring—Little Things Make a Big Difference

Main Idea: Christians can learn what it means to be a good neighbor to the people living nearest to us.

OPEN

Describe an interesting or memorable interaction you've had with someone in your neighborhood that was unexpected. What were the circumstances of this interaction? What kind of relationship was formed after this interaction?

SHOW—Session 1: *Rediscovering the Art of Neighboring—Little Things Make a Big Difference* (9 minutes).

CONVERSATION

What did the mayor request of Jay and the other pastors? What were they convicted about?

After watching this session, how would you define being a good neighbor?

In what ways can our love for convenience and comfort keep us from being the type of neighbors God has called us to be?

Tic-Tac-Toe board exercise: After drawing the board and taking his quiz, what were your results? What are some thoughts you have, whether positive or negative, about your results?

BIBLE EXPLORATION: Read Luke 10:25–37.

After reading this parable, how would you describe its message in your own words? Which character do you relate to?

What do the Samaritan's actions show us about being a good neighbor? What could being a good neighbor involve?

PRAYER

Prayer about ways you can make yourself more available than usual to your neighbors.

Pray for each other and the challenges and opportunities before you this week.

6 FOUR 6

WEEK 3 (Session 2): The Time Barrier—Margin is Key to Being a Good Neighbor

Main Idea: If Christians want to make space for their neighbors, then it requires flexibility and shifted priorities.

OPEN/ACCOUNTABILITY

Describe a busy time in your life. How did your schedule affect relationships? What was most distracting?

Share the Highs & Lows from your week.

Were you able to make yourself more available to a neighbor(s) this week?

SHOW: Session 2: *The Time Barrier—Margin is Key to Being a Good Neighbor* (6 minutes).

CONVERSATION

What myth does Dave talk about that we often believe about our time?

What is your relationship with time? How do you make time for people and tasks?

Dave quoted John Ortberg saying, “The greatest enemy of spiritual life is hurry.” **In what ways can rushing through life be detrimental to our spiritual growth?**

BIBLE EXPLORATION: Read Luke 10:38–42

Do you typically identify more with Martha or with Mary in this story? Why?

In what ways have you experienced missing out on something due to distractions?

In what ways could you create margin for God to work in your schedule? What shifts could you make in your priorities?

What could it look like to prioritize time spent with the people in your neighborhood?

PRAYER

Pray for a way to reshuffle priorities this week so you can create space to connect with neighbors.

Pray for each other and the challenges and opportunities before you this week.

6 FOUR 6

WEEK 4 (Session 3): Overcoming Fear—Neighboring Can be Both Messy and Powerful

Main Idea: Christians can break the barrier of fear by empathizing with our neighbors.

OPEN/ACCOUNTABILITY

Describe a time when you were afraid. What were the circumstances surrounding your fear and how did you handle it? What specifically made you afraid and why?

How did your priorities shift this past week to provide space for connections with neighbors?

Leader Development: Which of your group members will you ask to lead part of the group next week?

SHOW: Session 3: *Overcoming Fear—Neighboring Can be Both Messy and Powerful* (8 minutes).

CONVERSATION

What did Jay say is the responsibility of the believer when it comes to good neighboring?

What are some factors that might make someone afraid to engage with their neighbors?

In what ways have you allowed someone's differences keep you from getting to know them?

What are some ways you could imitate the actions of Jesus in your neighborhood?

BIBLE EXPLORATION: Read 1 Peter 3:8–17.

What types of actions does Peter list off that would help improve a relationship with someone else? Which of these actions do you find easier to do naturally and why?

What could it look like to display these attributes practically toward our next-door neighbors in our everyday lives?

What kinds of actions could be a blessing to a neighbor who has done evil toward you?

What are some ways you could address and overcome a particular fear you have about engaging with a neighbor this week?

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to help you push through your fears in order to engage with more of your neighbors.

Pray for each other and the challenges and opportunities before you this week.

6 FOUR 6

WEEK 5 (Session 4): The Art of Receiving—Reciprocal Relationships Go Both Ways

Main Idea: Our neighboring relationships should be a two-way street in order to grow and be healthy.

OPEN/ACCOUNTABILITY

How were you able to overcome fear and connect with someone this week?

Describe a time when you had to ask for help and didn't want to. How does it make you feel when you're forced to ask for help and why?

Leader Development: Which of your group members will you ask to lead part of the group next week?

SHOW: Session 4: *The Art of Receiving—Reciprocal Relationships Go Both Ways* (7 minutes).

CONSERVATION

How does Dave define “the art of receiving?” Why is it important for us to be good receivers?

In what ways have you found receiving help, gifts, or advice uncomfortable? What about receiving from others can make us feel uncomfortable?

What are some of the positive aspects of being in a healthy, reciprocal relationship?

BIBLE EXPLORATION: Read Matthew 26:6–13.

How were Jesus's actions a display of “the art of receiving” that Dave talked about?

In what ways could being on the receiving end of a relationship with your neighbor make the relationship stronger?

What are some practical steps you can take to reorient your perspective about receiving from others? How can you ensure that you receive from a neighbor the next time they offer their advice, their help, or a gift?

PRAYER

Pray for a spirit of openness and vulnerability to be a “receiver” as well as a “giver.”

Pray for each other and the challenges and opportunities before you this week.



WEEK 6: Celebration and Next Steps

OPEN/ACCOUNTABILITY

Describe any shifts in your thinking or actions as a result of these past weeks.

What has been the best part of 6 Four 6 for you?

In what ways have you become a better neighbor?

SHOW: Review the Covid-19 Neighboring Toolkit together as a group.

Discuss ideas you would like to try.

BIBLE EXPLORATION: Read Romans 12: 9-18.

Which of these “love in action” statements is God inviting you to focus on?

How does God’s love free you to be a good neighbor to others?

CELEBRATE

Celebrate the connections and learning of the past 6 weeks.

Consider marking steps taken in loving neighbors by creating a “rock wall” of God sightings, or post-it note visual of ways God has shown up in your lives and the lives of your neighbors.

Set a plan for launching a new 6 Four 6 group in 2022.

PRAYER

Thank God for the relationships developed and learning growth of these past weeks.

Ask God to increase your love for your neighbors.

Pray that our church would lead with love to all those around us.