

Joining Jesus on His Mission *Lesson 6 (Chapters 17 - 18)*

God's Word

Read Luke 10:1-12. Identify one idea (or more) that Jesus is teaching you:

- About himself.

- To believe or trust.

- To do.

Missional Living



“Missional Community” is a smaller group of local neighborhood missionaries who gather regularly to support each other as we learn to join Jesus on his mission. If you want to join, text “missional” to (833) 627-7520 or scan the QR code, “missional” will automatically be filled in the message box, then hit “send” to sign up.

Book study

1. Studies show that 30% of Americans know none of their neighbors. Does this match up with your experience? Offer reasons you believe people remain unconnected despite being close to each other.

2. How might seeing your relationships and daily circles as *part of God's plan* change the way you interact with others? (Cf. Acts 17:26-27)

3. The Neighboring Formula (p. 139) includes the component “Unhurried Time.” The previous lesson indicated that missional living does not require a significant investment of additional time. Think of different ways that intentionally allow you to spend time with people without significantly altering your life.

4. List one person from each of your neighborhoods and note how completely (or incompletely) you can answer the following questions about them.
 - a. Who are these people?

 - b. What is Jesus already up to in their lives?

 - c. How can I join him?

5. Luke 10:5-7 provides a rubric of knowing when someone is ready to hear more about the Kingdom of God. These “persons of peace” (p. 140) are the ones who “seem to be open to your good will and peace...who seem to be open to talking with you.” Note any of the persons from #4 that might meet that criteria. Plan how you might go about interacting further with them in the days or weeks ahead.

6. “If Jesus could work in the lives of tax collectors and sinners in the Gospels, why not in the lives of neighborhood dealers?” (p.142). The author points out a big struggle we all have...assuming people won’t listen.
 - What makes this temptation easy to fall into?

 - What makes this assumption/temptation difficult to overcome?

 - List different people in the Bible who were brought to faith even though people may have assumed “wouldn’t listen to the Word.”

7. On page 148, the author tells a bunch of stories of people being neighbors to each other. These stories are about missional living. Share a missional living story (could be from 10 years ago or yesterday) with the person next to you.

8. Read through the lists for both Intentional and Spontaneous neighboring (pages 149-151). Circle two to three from each list that seem to suit you. Brainstorm with others to try to expand your list with additional ideas.
 - Intentional Neighboring Environments
 - i. Have a cook out or ice cream party and invite your neighbors

- ii. Have a fire in the fire pit, provide the ingredients for s'mores, and invite your neighbors.
- iii. At work, look for someone who is regularly overlooked and underestimated. Invite them to lunch with you and one or two other employees.
- iv. Participate in gatherings hosted by others, like Home Owners Association functions or parties thrown by other neighbors. Go to community gatherings like festivals, art shows and city celebrations. Be open to talking with people.
- v. Give out baked goods to neighbors and be willing to linger if conversation begins.
- vi. Invite neighbors to a happy hour in your driveway.
- vii. Do a food-drive or invite your neighbors to join together and somehow make a difference for the community.
- viii. Invite neighbors or co-workers over to watch the big game.
- ix. Invite neighbors or co-workers over to a wine or craft beer tasting (or other food/drink thing) party. Have everyone bring their favorite kind and share what they like about their choice.
- x. Do you enjoy exercising or would you like to start? Invite neighbors to regularly power-walk or bike with you.
- xi. If your child is involved in a school group (band, sports, drama, club, etc), invite those families over for some fun.
- xii. Invite a different neighbor over for lunch or dinner once a month.
- xiii. If you live near a university, see if they have a way for you to invite international students to your home.
- xiv. What is your hobby or recreational sport? Invite others to join you.
- xv. Work with neighbors to have a community garage sale and give the money for a community cause.
- xvi. Have an Easter Egg hunt with the neighborhood children and then use Resurrection Eggs (available at Christian bookstores) to tell what really happened Easter morning.
- xvii. In neighborhoods with multiple cultures represented, have a multi-cultural dinner with people bring their favorite cultural dish.
- xviii. At Christmas, make cookies for the neighbors and put a note on the plate inviting them to contact you if they need someone to take in their mail or collect the trash cans if they go out of town.
- xix. At home during the afternoons? Begin an after-school club for the neighborhood kids or have a regular story time for younger kids.

xx. During the summer, hold a neighborhood VBS.

- Spontaneous Neighboring:

- i. Find reasons to be in your front yard rather than closed up in the house or apartment (or fenced in backyard). Watering flowers, weeding, sitting on the front porch/driveway, puts you into position to see who might wander by.
- ii. When you stop for your morning coffee, don't go through the drive-through. Stop and go inside. Be aware of the people around you. Look for people that just "happen" to be looking around as you are. Smile. Look for people who are regularly there when you are. Eventually introduce yourself.
- iii. Walk your dog when you see others are out walking theirs. There are few easier ways to meet people.
- iv. Be a regular at the neighborhood pool, community center, or park.
- v. Be quick to offer assistance to neighbors who need a hand with a project.
- vi. Offer to babysit for weary moms or so a young couple can have a date night.
- vii. Be a "regular" at a lunch spot. Start to get to know the wait staff and other "regulars". Tip well.
- viii. Let your kids play in a park-league. Strike up conversations with other parents.
- ix. Have regular game-playing time out in the front yard with the neighborhood kids. Kickball, whiffleball, basketball, football, tag, water balloon fights, etc.
- x. Bring morning treats to work. See what happens.

Neighborhood Prayer Map

Take time to map out your surrounding neighbors. Use this then to take notes for your prayers!


APPENDIX 2

Neighborhood Prayer Map

Instructions:

1. Draw a map of the streets and homes around yours
2. If you know the occupants, write their names beside their home
3. If you don't know the occupants write "?"
4. As you get to know your neighbors better, write additional details you can include in prayer.

Example:



Austin, Dave, Robert (Loki grade) and Avery (?)

Jones, Sam, Julie
--moved in last month

Pond

Gonzalez, Juan, Sue and Tony (Mexico)

Fletcher, Eddie, Morgan -- lost job Jan. and

?

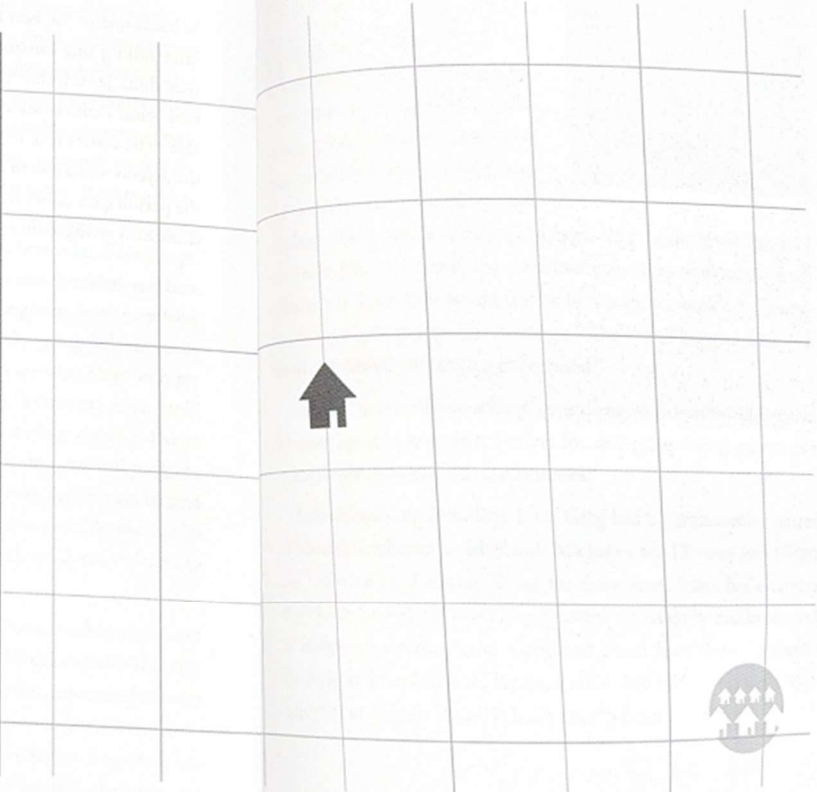
?

?

?

?

?



For next time - Read Chapter 19 and be ready to answer the 5 questions on page 156.