

The 40 Day Neighboring Experiment

"Loving My Neighbor by Respecting Her"

Leviticus 19:9-18 – January 10, 2016

New Years Sermon Series

THE 40 DAY NEIGHBORING EXPERIMENT		
A 6-Week Sermon Series on Loving Your Neighbor		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Jan 3	Loving Your Neighbor By Knowing Him	Luke 10:25-37
Jan 10	Loving Your Neighbor By Respecting Her	Leviticus 19:9-18
Jan 17	Loving Your Neighbor Who is Hard to Love	Matthew 5:43-48
Jan 24	Loving Your Neighbor By Loving Yourself	Mark 10:28-31
Jan 31	Loving Your Neighbor By Sharing Your Faith	1 Peter 3:15
Feb 7	Testimony Sunday	Open mic

The 40 Day Neighboring Experiment

For the first 40 days of 2016, I will pray the following prayer:
 (1) Lord, how do You want me to love my neighbor today?
 (2) Lord, please give me the courage and power to act on what You are showing me.

Learning from Jesus About How to Love My Neighbor from Luke 10:25-37

- Loving my neighbor starts with loving God** (vv.25-29)
- Loving my neighbor involves caring enough to stop and get involved** (vv.30-33)
 - Three obstacles you must overcome in order to stop and get involved with your neighbor: pride, busyness, fear.
 - Last Week's Challenge: Get to know the names of the 5 households who literally live next door and across the street.
 - State Farm Study: "Only 25% of Americans know the name of their next door neighbors." (Forbes, 10-12-2014)
- Loving my neighbor means respecting my neighbor with the Golden Rule** (vv.30-37)
 - Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto to you." (Matthew 7:12)

- If I was beat up on the side of the road, I would want someone to stop and help me.
- Synonymous with the 2nd Greatest Commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27; Matt 22:39; Mark 12:31)
- YouTube Video: "How to Transform Your Neighborhood" [3:56]
- Adolf Steck – Chicago – found in 2001
- The biblical origin of the 2nd Greatest Commandment and the Golden Rule is Leviticus 19:18.

What It Means to Live the Golden Rule and the Second Greatest Commandment According to Leviticus 19:9-18

- I love my neighbor by sharing food with them** (vv.9-10)
 - Tina Dang: "Food is a universal language."
 - Monica Riese: "At the end of the day, the language that we all speak fluently is food."
 - Shari Arison: "Food is a unifying force and a wonderful avenue to get to know your neighbors."
 - Eating together was an essential practice of the early church (Acts 2:42,46).
- I love my neighbor by not stealing from them or lying to them** (vv.11-13)
 - Have I borrowed anything from my neighbor and not returned it?
 - By the way: Borrowing things is a great way to engage with your neighbor. People like to feel needed. People like to help. Borrowing is an excuse to knock on the door and engage relationally. And it saves you money. (Just be sure to return it.)
- I love my neighbor by being sensitive to their weaknesses** (v.14)
 - One of the best ways to connect with a neighbor is to just listen to them.
 - Ed Brodow: "Listening is the forgotten art. We are so busy making sure that people hear what we have to say that we forget to listen."
 - Five tips for listening well:
 - Ask questions.
 - Don't talk. Listen.
 - Give them your eyes. (Put away your phone.)
 - Empathize with your face and voice.
 - Don't solve their problem. Just listen.

4. I love my neighbor by treating them fairly (v.15)

5. I love my neighbor by not talking behind their back (v.16)

- **Proverbs 26:22** (The Message) – *Listening to gossip is like eating cheap candy; do you want junk like that in your belly?*
- **Proverbs 16:27-28** (The Message) – *Mean people spread mean gossip; their words smart and burn.... Gossips break up friendships.*
- **James 4:11** (The Message) – *Don't bad-mouth each other.*

6. I love my neighbor by resolving any **conflict** with them (vv.17-18)

- God puts the obligation of initiating reconciliation on you:
 - If you have hurt someone, you are to go to them and apologize (Matthew 5:23-24).
 - If someone has hurt you, you are to go to them and speak the truth in love (Matthew 18:15; Ephesians 4:15).
- **Romans 12:18** – *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*
- Having the courage to seek to resolve conflict in a healthy manner could be the greatest witness your neighbor ever sees.

Last Week's Big Application: Get to know the names of your 5 neighbors (literally) surrounding your living space.

This Week's Big Application: Lord, show me one step you want me to take with just one of my (literal) neighbors:

- Taking them cookies
- Taking them a meal
- Having them over for dinner
- Borrowing something from them (knock on their door)
- Returning something I borrowed from them (knock on door)
- Listening to a struggle and then responding as God leads (listening is a significant ministry)
- Pursuing relationship with the neighbor who is least like me
- Not participating in neighborhood gossip
- Apologizing to a neighbor for something I did
- Seeking reconciliation with a neighbor regardless of whose fault the conflict was (Romans 12:18)

YouTube Video: "Neighboring Movement Video" [3:24]

A Simple Way of Remembering This Application – Lord, show me one way I can B.L.E.S.S. a neighbor this week:

B – Begin with prayer – I'm going to bless my neighbor by praying for them.

L – Listen – I'm going to bless my neighbor by just listening to them. I'm going to stop talking and just listen.

E – Eat – I'm going to bless my neighbor by taking them cookies or a meal or having them over for dinner or coffee.

S – Serve – I'm going to bless my neighbor by serving them by helping them with a project or mowing their yard.

S – Story – I'm going to bless my neighbor by sharing my story with them including (if appropriate) my story of coming to know Christ.

