



# CREATING SPACE TO ENGAGE OUR NEIGHBORS

**SERMON #6 DISCUSSION GUIDE: Week of October 17, 2021**

**Scripture:** Romans 12:2 and Luke 10:38-42

**Big Idea:** Replace your full schedule with full relationships.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. Mary and Martha had different priorities. Which priority is better for neighboring? Why? Which of them is more like you?
2. What intentional choices can you make to come into regular contact with those around you?
3. Sometimes controlling your calendar requires changing where you're located. Do you need to change locations to better control your calendar?
4. Reflect on your neighboring. How are you doing? What do think your neighbors think about you? How can you become better?
5. Spend some time in prayer and then ask yourself, "What edits do I need to make this week to go in the direction you're calling me to?"

## **Action Steps:**

1. REST. It's not often we're given permission to just take a break. I'm giving it to you this week. Take a break from your busy schedule. Take a sabbath. Enjoy a day off where you do nothing and just listen to God's voice and engage with people around you.
2. CREATING THE SPACE. How much space in your week is given to just be in your community? What rituals have you established to ensure you are not isolating yourself from your neighbors? Take some time this week to intentionally create space to hang out in and around community. Here are a few examples:
  - Hang out at work.
  - Spend time on your front porch.
  - Sit at a local coffee shop.

## Creating Space to Engage with Neighbors Sermon Content Review:

Henry David Thoreau once said "It's not enough to be busy, so are the ants. The question is, what are we busy about?"

In a world where we are over scheduled and pressed at the margins, it seems daunting to think about adding another thing. We are overscheduled with work, meetings, school, family sporting events, and volunteer activities. We walk around saying "I'm just too busy to add another thing to my plate". But loving our neighbors and intentionally engaging with those in our path is not "another thing". It is an intentional way of life that Jesus models for us in the scriptures.

The problem is people struggle with making priorities. Often, we prioritize what the world will tell us is important and not what God shows us in his word. These are not all negative things, but when those things stand in the way of the path to full life for anyone, then we must ask ourselves why they are a priority. We must make room for the life with others to happen. Implementing rhythms that prioritize others, ruthlessly eliminate hurry, and empower presence will free us to engage intentionally and organically.

When Jesus was confronted by Martha about Mary not doing her work, he rebuked her. Not because what Martha was doing was wrong, but because she was distracted. She was so distracted by her work that she forgot to engage with her friends, family and most especially Jesus. How often can we say we are so busy trying to do the good works of this world that we miss out on the relationships that God has called us to grow?

**Gospel:** Jesus oriented his life around his priorities, and he submitted his priorities to his mission. Therefore, he chose to take the cross for each of us. Nothing stood in the way of this priority. Not his friends. Not his own comforts. Not the enemy. Just as Jesus chose the way of more resistance, we need to make it a priority to choose a way where we lead others onto the path to full life in Jesus.

*REFERENCE: <https://national.cc/media/neighbor>*

Notes: