



# WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

**SERMON #1 DISCUSSION GUIDE: Week of September 12, 2021**

**Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37

**Big Idea:** Being a good neighbor means going deeper than a polite “hello”.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some practical ways you can cultivate neighboring relationships?
2. We tend to think better of ourselves than others. Is this true of you? How can we see others differently?
3. What will be the greatest challenge for you in this neighboring series?

## **Action Steps:**

1. Write down the names of people you know in your life from 3 different places. Consider where you live, where you work and where you play. (If you don't know the name, just write down a descriptor) of all these people.
2. Then take some time to write down what you know about these people, both factual items but personal things you may know.
3. Then pray over this list and make a commitment this week to choose one person who you don't know very well and talk to them and get to know them better. Think about what you can do to engage them more authentically. Think about ways you break barriers to become closer to them in real and powerful ways.

### ***Name(s) and/or Descriptor(s) and A Few Things I Know***

<b><i>Where you live</i></b>	
<b><i>Where you work</i></b>	
<b><i>Where you play</i></b>	

## Who Is My Neighbor? Sermon Content Review:

Notes:

Love your neighbor. I'm sure we've all heard this phrase in one way or another. We've been saying this over the months as we try to find ways to serve and show love to our friends, neighbors, and family even in the midst of the pandemic. This is not just a popular phrase with those of faith, but for everyone. This idea crosses cultures, faiths, and history. It's this idea that we treat others as we would want to be treated. But who is our neighbor?

Is it the person who lives next door to us? Is it just the people who live on our street, in our town or at our school? Maybe for you, a neighbor is someone who looks, acts, votes, and believes the same things you do. Anyone who sits outside of these traits doesn't necessarily fit into our definition of neighbor. As a matter of fact, they are not only our neighbors, but we see ourselves as better than them.

In Bible history, the Jews were not a people who loved their neighbor. For the most part, their history had involved loving only those in their culture and faith and destroying anyone who would challenge that faith. To them, a "neighbor" was someone who looked, talked and acted the same way they did. They thought they were better than all other people in the world. So, they mistreated these neighbors.

How do you treat people? Are you simply polite to your neighbor? Waving and saying hello, but never actually connecting with them in real and powerful ways. Scripture calls for us to not only see our neighbor, but to love them in ways that would be radical. Spend time talking to them. Lend a hand to someone who needs help. Pray for your neighbors, both in your daily moments, but also with them.

We are called to look past our biases, our preconceived notions and our fears and to reach out to those people in our lives who are like us AND to those people who are not anything like us. Just like in the story of the Good Samaritan, we need to show love to those people who might otherwise be called our enemies.

**GOSPEL:** Jesus not only calls us to radical love with our neighbors, but he models that for us in his life. What you may not think of regularly was that Jesus had enemies. There were people who wished him dead; the pharisees, the Romans. And the reality of Jesus sacrifice on the cross is that He chose to die for even those people who wished him harm.

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