

BLOCK MAP EXERCISE



BUT WHEN THE PHARISEES HEARD THAT HE HAD SILENCED THE SADDUCEES, THEY GATHERED TOGETHER. AND ONE OF THEM, A LAWYER, ASKED HIM A QUESTION TO TEST HIM.

"TEACHER, WHICH IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT IN THE LAW?"

AND HE SAID TO HIM, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE GREAT AND FIRST COMMANDMENT.

AND A SECOND IS LIKE IT: **YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**

Matthew 22v34-39
(ESV)

This booklet provides a simple to understand tool to help us on our journey as followers of Jesus. The purpose of this booklet is to help us identify and express love to our actual neighbors, as we become more intentional about how we practice hospitality aligned with God's vision for the world.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Please keep in mind that this is merely a tool to help us to get started in knowing our neighbors on a deeper, more meaningful level. Our primary goal is to simply create additional space in our lives to know, be known, and do life with the people living directly around us.

Remain centered around these values:

- Love God
- Learn the way of Jesus
- Live with purpose

BLOCK MAP EXERCISE

Fill out the block map provided on the next page. If you're unable to fill it out completely, resist the temptation to feel guilty or ashamed. Instead, use this opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

For each house or living space surrounding yours (the middle square), answer the following three questions truthfully:

Question 1: What is my neighbor's name? Write down your neighbor's first and last name. If you're unsure what their name is, simply place a question mark in the box next to "A".

Question 2: What is an important fact I could say about my neighbor? Write down something that you could only know from having a conversation with them. It could be anything regarding where they work, where they're from, what their hobbies are, how long they've lived in their space, etc.

Question 3: What in-depth information have I come to know about my neighbor? Write down anything you know about your neighbor that has helped you know them *well*. It could be anything regarding their dreams, their hopes, their fears, their relationship status, their experience with faith, their childhood, etc.

BLOCK MAP EXERCISE

Studies have shown that only 10% of people can fill out question 1, 3% of people can fill out question 2, and less than 1% can fill out question 3.* The point of this exercise is to expose the truth that most of us don't know anything about our neighbors, let alone their names.

The biggest obstacle for many of us is often our time. Although we have good intentions, our schedules always seems to get in the way. However, when many of us say "I don't have time to get to know my neighbor," what we're really saying is "I don't consider getting to know my neighbor as important as everything else I do." As we look inwards at our own actions, mindsets and rhythms, ask yourself:

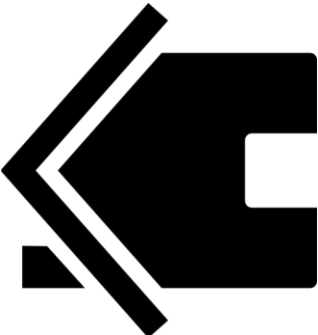
- (a) What would Jesus do if he were me?

- (b) How can I be intentional about creating time and space for the people living around me?

- (c) What would happen if every Christian in my city made an attempt to build a relationship with the people in the eight households around them?

*statistic from practicingtheway.org

**adapted from theartofneighboring.com

<p>A: B: C:</p>	<p>A: B: C:</p>	<p>A: B: C:</p>
<p>A: B: C:</p>		<p>A: B: C:</p>
<p>A: B: C:</p>	<p>A: B: C:</p>	<p>A: B: C:</p>

"THOSE WHO LIVE OUT RADICALLY ORDINARY HOSPITALITY SEE THEIR HOMES NOT AS THEIRS AT ALL BUT AS GOD'S GIFT TO USE FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF HIS KINGDOM. THEY OPEN DOORS; THEY SEEK OUT THE UNDERPRIVILEGED. THEY KNOW THAT THE GOSPEL COMES WITH A HOUSE KEY."

Rosaria Butterfield

KNOWING MY NEIGHBORS

Practicing the art of neighboring can be both challenging and scary. In order to help you take those first step towards knowing your neighbors on a deeper, more meaningful level, here are some things you could consider doing as an act of neighboring and hospitality in your block:

- I walk my block, asking Jesus for his eyes and heart to see my neighborhood differently.
- I spend an hour each week in my front yard or common area, ready to spend time with any neighbor who might cross my path or who the Holy Spirits sends my way.
- I go meet a neighbor I've never spoken to.
- I invite two or three neighbors over for dinner.
- I offer help to my neighbors when they're completing large projects that require more hands.
- I plan holiday parties for my neighborhood, making sure that everyone from my block has been invited.
- I invite a neighbor out to join me for something we both like to do (i.e.: sports, hiking, etc.).
- I bring dinner over for a neighbor who is sick, with a newborn, or going through a challenging season.
- I secretly slip a grocery gift card in their mailbox without telling them or anyone else.
- I invite my neighbors over for a weekly barbeque during the summer months.
- If our families both have children, I offer to babysit so my neighbors can have a moment of rest.
- I invite a neighbor over for coffee.
- I invite one neighbor to Alpha once a year.
- I pray for my neighbors daily.

