

2021

NEIGHBORS // Week 3

Radically Ordinary Hospitality



Overview

Most often, the things that make the biggest impact in our lives aren't the result of multi-million dollar campaigns or products designed for convenience. They are, however, simple, human acts of welcoming kindness. These small and large gestures communicate to others their god-given value. The best part about this? You don't need a degree or significant capital to change someone's life. In this series, we will be making a plan together for how to help those in our community one hospitable interaction at a time.

Week Three

In order to have the opportunity to be hospitable to our fellow man, we must build bridges for our neighbors to walk across. In a world full of polarized passion it's the open walkway, not the closed gate, that welcomes, invites. The pillars for these pathways? According to Jesus' followers from the beginning, they are patience and acceptance. This week we will take an indepth look at how Jesus welcomed and valued others so that we can do the same.

Big Idea: Hospitality is the reflection of the kindness of God that leads to repentance.

Scripture: John 3:1-9 (NLT) , John 3:10-17 (NLT), Mark 15:21 (ESV), John 3:18-21 (NLT), Acts 15:19 (NLT), Romans 2:4 (NLT)

Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- Takeaway recap of week 1 and 2:
 - Jesus' role is not to reinforce the religious but to forgive the forgotten.
 - Action without intent is unproductive.
- We are dramatically poor evaluators of self.
- Respect Your Neighbor's Reality
- Love and approval do not always go together

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read Romans 2:4
We see that God chooses kindness, regardless of our actions.
What is it that you value most in a relationship? What do you want from others in a relationship?
2. Read Acts 15:19
How am I, through my actions, making it difficult for others to turn to God?
3. Read Luke 6:32-25
Love your neighbors, or your "actions" are useless. We have to stop destroying our ability to share Jesus with the world with our negativity in conversation and on social media.

If you examined your social post or recent conversations, are you presenting a portfolio of Jesus' love? If not, what action steps can we take and hold each other accountable to make our public and private lives a reflection of Jesus' Kindness and not his judgement?

4. Read John 3:18-21

Hospitality starts with repentance. Hostility is the kryptonite of hospitality. If we're in relationships to prove we're right, we're doing it wrong. One way to know if we're in it for the wrong reasons is to ask 'am I in this relationship to get or to give?' What are some other ways to evaluate how we're in a relationship with others?

5. John 3:1-9 It's our responsibility as Jesus followers to respect our neighbors' reality as we see Jesus in this story. How can we also love our neighbors by not forcing what we believe is 'right vs wrong' in comparison to their reality?

6. We see in this story that Jesus tried to use language that Nicademus would understand, because love and approval do not always go together. In what ways can we show that love and approval do not always go together?

7. In relationships, can you say "I have myself a safe place?" Or are we stuck in the culture of 'have I made myself clear...right..etc'

8. Read Mark 15:21 The burdens we carry are not meant to be carried alone. As much as we are willing to offer collective burden bearing we must accept it. Right now, what are the sacrifices you are making to bear others burdens? How can we, as a group collectively carry a burden you are personally feeling?

9. Lastly, ask the group around you **What's it like to be in a relationship with me?** Then, outside of your group find a few safe people to ask this same question to.

Resources:

- "It is important to be able to correct our tendencies towards unrealistic optimism. And the best way to do that is by regularly soliciting honest feedback." David Dunning
- There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit." "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked. John 3:1-9 (NLT)
- Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:10-17 (NLT)
- "And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross." Mark 15:21 (ESV)
- "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but

people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants. John 3:18-21 (NLT)

- "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. "Love your enemies! Luke 6:32-35 (NLT)
- "Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? Romans 2:4 (NLT)
- "And so my judgement is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God." Acts 15:19 (NLT)
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