

2021

# NEIGHBORS // Week 4

Radically Ordinary Hospitality

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## 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 Four

The wounds caused by the Church are often deep and prone to infection. Churches are full of broken people. And, if those people don't have a clear understanding of their mission, they can create more broken people. How do we stop this damaging cycle? We watch Jesus at work. Today, as we wrap this series, we will see together how Jesus healed a blind man, what the church did with him, and how we can keep from making the spiritually lethal mistake of choosing law over love.

**Big Idea:** The damage the church causes and how Vertical has been called to counteract that.

**Scripture:** John 9.

### Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- "When abuse is done by a pastor it becomes spiritual abuse the way all abuse is but then it also means that God has been dragged into it and he is on the side of the abuser. I really don't have words for the kind of damage that that does to a soul."
- It is more damaging for a person to be hurt by the church than by any other means.
- Our mission as being so unwaveringly understanding and loving to the lonely around us that they come to a better understanding of Christ and the role he wants to play in their life,

### Group Discussion Questions:

1. How is it that churches so often permanently damage those God has entrusted to us?
2. Have you personally experienced hurt from a church? If you're comfortable, please share.
3. How have you done a great job at "being the church"? In what ways do you realize you need to improve?
4. Review John 9. This story shows how religious people, stuck in their ways because of their personal beliefs, get in the way of God's actual plan. In what ways do you believe the church, present or past, has chosen to use their platform for their personal beliefs and agendas, and not God's purpose?

5. Read Matthew 22:37-39 & Galatians 5:14. Give a summary of what we are called to do, as the church, to be a good neighbor.
6. We believe that by focusing our efforts on being the good neighbors that scripture calls us to negate our propensity as people to fail. How can we focus on others instead of our personal opinions and agendas with everything happening around us?

## Resources:

- They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."  
John 9:13-15(NIV)
- A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"  
John 9:24-25 (NIV)
- Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."  
John 9:26-29 (NIV)
- The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.  
John 9:30-34 (NIV)
- "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'  
Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

- For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:14 (NIV)