

Sacred SPACES

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE **WEEK ONE: "LIVE"** **LUKE 9:23-26 & MATTHEW 22:37-40**

SERIES OVERVIEW

This series is about taking Jesus into the places of our lives with intentionality. It will focus our church on the truth that we shouldn't view some things as sacred and others as secular. It is to challenge the idea that those in ministry are doing the real work, while those not in ministry are just settling for second place. In Jesus, we're all part of a sacred priesthood. Donald Tabb, The Chapel's Pastor Emeritus, would say, "You are either a missionary or a mission field." The Apostle Peter said it this way: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9). While the Apostle Paul would say it this way: "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20).

ICE BREAKER

Let's play a game. Give yourself 1 minute and write down the names (first names will work) of as many of your neighbors as you can. READY, SET, GO...SERIOUSLY, TRY IT!

What do you think this simple exercise demonstrates about your ability to influence your neighborhood for Christ?

THIS WEEK

For many of us, the people we live next door to are the people we know the least. This week, we'll discuss what it means to live out our faith in our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, making an impact where you live doesn't just happen. It requires time, margin, socialization, dying to yourself and intentionality, and none of those things will ever happen without proper motivation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders, encourage your group members to spend time considering and answering the following questions before coming to the group, as this will produce a more lively discussion time.)

- 1. Before diving into scripture, discuss the most difficult part of reaching your neighbors for Christ?**
- 2. Do you view your home as a place of refuge or a place for ministry? Why?**
- 3. Read Luke 9:23-26. How does this passage of scripture relate to or follow-up with this idea of confessing and repenting of worshipping our homes as places of refuge?**
- 4. How much margin do you think would need to be created in your life to interact more with your neighbors?**
- 5. What do you need to do or not do to create that margin in your life?**
- 6. Read Matthew 22:37-40. In this scripture, Jesus simplifies our spiritual lives into two important things: We should love God and love people. Explain how each of those commands individually can motivate us to push against the difficult parts of reaching our neighbors and dying to ourselves.**

CLOSING THOUGHT

Where you live is a sacred space. It's sacred for God to be glorified as you live on mission. It's not sacred for your comfort. You are Christ's ambassador in your neighborhood and on your specific street. God placed you there for a reason. You are the pastor or missionary to your specific neighbors.

APPLICATION

- **REPENT FROM IDOLIZING YOUR HOME:** Confess to the Lord, if needed, that you've substituted your home to be the refuge that only He can be.
- **PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES:** You'll be amazed how many times God gives you to interact with your neighbors if you're seeking Him for those opportunities.
- **LEARN YOUR NEIGHBORS NAMES:** This week, start making a list of your neighbors names that you can begin to pray through with your family or roommates. Learning names may require an apology to some of your neighbors that might sound like this: "Hey, I've lived beside you for a long time and even waved at you often, but I don't know your name..."
- **GO OUTSIDE:** You can't wait and expect your neighbors to knock down your door wanting to hear about Jesus. Go outside and play, relax or even grill in your front yard. For many of you, your interactions with your neighbors will increase exponentially when you're in your front yards rather than your fenced-in backyards.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

You can find many of these thoughts at:

<http://sendnetwork.com/2014/10/28/everyday-neighborhood-missionary/>