



NEIGHBORING

We are a family of disciples making disciples by impacting our homes, our neighbors, and every generation with the hope of Jesus.

Living Hope Baptist Church Mission and Vision

What is “neighboring”?

When asked what the greatest commandment is, Jesus answered to love God with all your being and love your neighbor as yourself (Mt. 22:37-40). In other words, in love, we are to devote ourselves to God and seek the best for our neighbors.

When asked: who is my neighbor? Jesus responded with the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:25-37). This parable reveals that a true neighbor who is faithful to God is one who has compassion and shows mercy to anyone God lays within our path.

In His great sovereignty, God places us (His children) in contact with other people who need the love of a neighbor and, most importantly, to know Him. When we speak of “neighboring”, we are applying Jesus’s command to love our neighbors to our physical neighbors - those whom God has chosen for us to live among.

Neighboring is an incarnational ministry of the believer to impact those in his or her neighborhood by loving as Christ loves. This love is a ministry of presence through intentionality, service, sacrifice, and sharing.

Why “neighboring”?

1. Neighboring is a command from King Jesus. God has purposefully planted each of us around others in our neighborhoods or on our streets, and it is out of obedience to Him that we neighbor. As those saved by grace, we are expected to extend the grace and love of Christ to those around us. So, we neighbor because we are followers of Jesus Christ.
2. Neighboring was modeled by Jesus. He chose to move into our lives, to come close, to dwell among (Jn. 1:14). He performed the greatest incarnational ministry by coming to earth in flesh to save His enemies and call them family. Jesus was intentional about time spent with others loving them and proclaiming the message of the Kingdom of God. So, we neighbor because Jesus did.
3. God has sent us to our neighbors with the message of the Gospel (Jn. 20:21; 2 Cor. 5:20). The greatest way to love your neighbor is to share Christ with them. What our neighbors need most is Jesus! Therefore, God has sent us to them as His messengers. So, we neighbor to share Jesus with others.

How do I “neighbor”?

Neighboring is not a program or an event. It is an intentional lifestyle of the believer to commit to loving one’s neighbors for the glory of God.

Neighboring causes the believer to slow down their life to be present in the lives of those who live nearby, entering the lives of others and inviting them into yours. And it all begins with prayer.

The model we will follow is: Pray, Welcome, Serve, Share.

Pray

1. Pray that God would give you a heart of compassion towards your neighbors.
2. Pray that you would be receptive and obedient to how God chooses to use you in building relationships with your neighbors, serving and sharing the Gospel with them.
3. Pray for your neighbors. Pray for them by name. Pray with them. As you get to know them, pray for their needs. Pray for their salvation.
4. Pray for the Gospel to transform your neighborhood.

Welcome

1. Get to know your neighbors. As you begin to pray for your neighbors, you might realize that you don't know them well. So, the first action would be to get to know them.
2. Build relationships with your neighbors. We want to take our neighbors from being strangers to acquaintances to friends. As you get to know your neighbors, begin to build a relationship with them by inviting them into your life.
3. Open your home to your neighbors. The best way to build relationships is through biblical hospitality.
 - a. Biblical hospitality is a "reflection of God's missionary nature of bringing foreigners and strangers into His covenant community... [It is] taking the initiative to help saints and strangers go from unknown to known by opening our homes and lives for the sake of the Gospel and the glory of God."
 - b. Followers of Jesus are commanded to steward the gifts that God has given them in a faithful, godly manner. Our homes, food, resources, time, and even families are all gift of God.

Serve

1. Explore your neighbors' needs. As you get to know your neighbors and welcome them into your life, you will become aware of their needs. Keep your ears open when you engage with them. Their needs may not be physical or seen by the eye.
2. Meet your neighbors' needs. As those who love their neighbors well, we strive to meet the needs of our neighbors out of compassionate hearts. We seek their good for their benefit and the glory of God. This is all about pointing others to God, not ourselves. Serving is a vital part of real relationships.

Share

1. Point your neighbors to Jesus when you welcome and serve. While you get to know your neighbors and serve their needs, make sure that you take the opportunities to give the glory to Jesus. Neighboring is about being a good neighbor, but, ultimately, it is about bringing glory to God and sharing Him with our neighbors.
2. Tell your neighbors about Jesus. Share with your neighbors the Gospel and how Jesus has transformed you. Use the 3-Circles, share your testimony. The best thing you can do to love your neighbor is to share Jesus with them. If we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, why wouldn't we share with them the best thing to ever happen to us?
 - a. Be open and expecting opportunities to share the Gospel.
 - b. Gospel conversations are best done in the context of a relationship. People don't care what you know until they know that you care. Show the love of Jesus but don't stop there. Share Jesus with your neighbors.

What are we praying “neighboring” will do?

As we neighbor, we trust that God, the Sovereign King, will be doing the work of saving souls. Our role is to be faithful to love our neighbors and tell them about Jesus.

Our prayer is to see lives changed by the Gospel and our neighborhoods to be transformed by the grace of God. We pray to see awakening and revival in our community through the work of the Holy Spirit through believers faithfully neighboring well.

Recommended Resources:

Books:

The Art of Neighboring by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon

Next Door As It Is In Heaven by Lance Ford and Brad Brisco

Websites:

<https://www.artofneighboring.com/>

<https://app.blesseveryhome.com/>