A Guide to Neighboring

LIFESTYLE OF A BIBLICAL NEIGHBOR

Impact our homes, neighbors, and every generation with the hope of Jesus.

NEIGHBORING

Living Hope is a family of disciples making disciples by impacting our homes, **our neighbors**, and every generation with the hope of Jesus.

Jesus was asked, “What is the greatest commandment?” To which He answered, love God with all your being and love your neighbor as yourself (Mt. 22:37-40). Another time, Jesus was asked, “Who is my neighbor?” To which Jesus answered with a parable that we know as the Good Samaritan story (Lk. 10:25-37). This story flipped the question, and Jesus revealed that a true neighbor has compassion and shows mercy to anyone God lays in their path.

Therefore, God has called each of us to love those He sovereignly places in our lives with compassionate and merciful hearts. God has placed us within families, friend groups, workplaces, schools, and of course neighborhoods. His placing is not haphazard but intentional. In placing us where we are, God sends us to the people in these spheres that need to know Jesus. We are sent to them with the Gospel message as witnesses of God’s great grace in saving our lives.

When we talk about neighboring, we are talking about loving those among whom God has placed us to live. We love them like Jesus does and share with them the greatest news on earth - the Gospel!

Neighboring is an intentional lifestyle of the believer to commit to loving one’s neighbors for the glory of God, loving them as Christ does. It is an incarnational ministry of opening one’s life to others and entering theirs as well.

THE MODEL

Pray

Welcome

Serve

Share

PRAY

We begin the neighboring lifestyle through prayer. We understand that we are imperfect beings, marred by sin. Therefore, we must rely on God for the strength, patience, endurance, grace, and compassion to sacrifice through a neighboring lifestyle.

Start by praying for yourself:

Pray that God would give you a heart of compassion toward your neighbors.

Pray that you would be open and receptive to walking in obedience to God who chooses to use you to build relationships and share the Gospel with your neighbors.

Pray that as you commit to the neighboring lifestyle, God would continue to provide patience, strength, endurance, grace, love, and forgiveness.

PRAY

As you continue the neighboring lifestyle, your prayers should change. As you get to know your neighbors, begin to pray for them by name and pray with them.

Praying for your neighbors:

Begin praying for your neighbors by prayer walking your street and pray for the Gospel to transform your neighbors and neighborhood.

Pray specifically for your neighbors and their needs,

- **Salvation:** for your lost neighbors, their greatest need is salvation from sin through the grace of God in Jesus.
- **Health:** pray for good health.
- **Needs:** pray for needs that arise in conversation.
- **Desires:** pray for their hearts and what they desire.

WELCOME

Our goal in being good neighbors is to build relationships with our neighbors that we may present them with the Gospel of Jesus and share life with them.

As we turn our eyes to our neighbors and begin to pray for them, we may find that we don't know our neighbors quite as well as we thought. The first step in building a relationship is to get to know them.

In the back of this booklet, we have provided resources for you to grow in neighboring. One of the resources is a "Block Map" exercise. This will help you begin to get to know your neighbors. Take the time to engage your 4 nearest neighbors in conversation. Over time, you will be able to answer the three basic questions on this exercise: What are their names? What do they do for a living? What is a personal detail about them?

WELCOME

We want to take our neighbors from strangers to acquaintances to friends. Here are some ways to get to know your neighbors and build relationships.

- **Introduce yourself/your family:** This is the first step to building a relationship. Take the initiative.
- **Give goodies to your neighbors:** This is especially good around holidays. Bring them something tasty!
- **Spend time outdoors:** Take walks, spend time in your front yards, etc. Take the opportunities to greet and talk with your neighbors.
- **Join a nieghborhood group:** Join a social media or messaging group. Get involved in your HOA.
- **Host or help organize a block party or get-together:** Get your neighbors together and start forming relationships with them.
- **Open your home:** See the next page!

WELCOME

There is no better way to grow a relationship with your neighbors than opening up your life to them via your home and family. We call this biblical hospitality.

Biblical hospitality 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.” It is faithfully stewarding the gifts of God (our homes, food, resources, time, and families) for His glory and the furthering of the Gospel.

Invite your neighbors into your home and to spend time with your family. Invite them over for dinner, Saturday brunch, game night, movie night, ice cream, a campfire. Invite neighbor kids to come play games with yours. Invite your neighbors to an activity outside of the neighborhood to spend time with you/your family.

SERVE

As we invite our neighbors into our lives, our prayer is that they will reciprocate and invite us into theirs. In relationships, we will become aware of the needs of our neighbors. We want to meet these needs for their benefit and the glory of God. Serving is a vital part of real relationships and gives an opportunity to point our neighbors to Jesus.

We should keep our eyes and ears open for our neighbors needs as we spend time with them. Their needs might be physical:

- **Mow their lawn or do projects around their home**
- **Help bring in groceries**

Their needs may be emotional:

- **Be a listening ear or shoulder to cry on**
- **Bring them comforting gifts or a meal**

SHARE

As we are welcoming and serving our neighbors, we are to be pointing them to Jesus. We are to share the love of Jesus through our actions and attitudes. However, the best way to love our neighbors is by sharing Jesus with them.

The act of love in sharing the Gospel of Jesus with our neighbors has their eternity in mind. Therefore, it is the greatest act of love that we can give. As we seek to be good neighbors, we are seeking the best for those whom God has planted us among. The best for them is a relationship with Jesus.

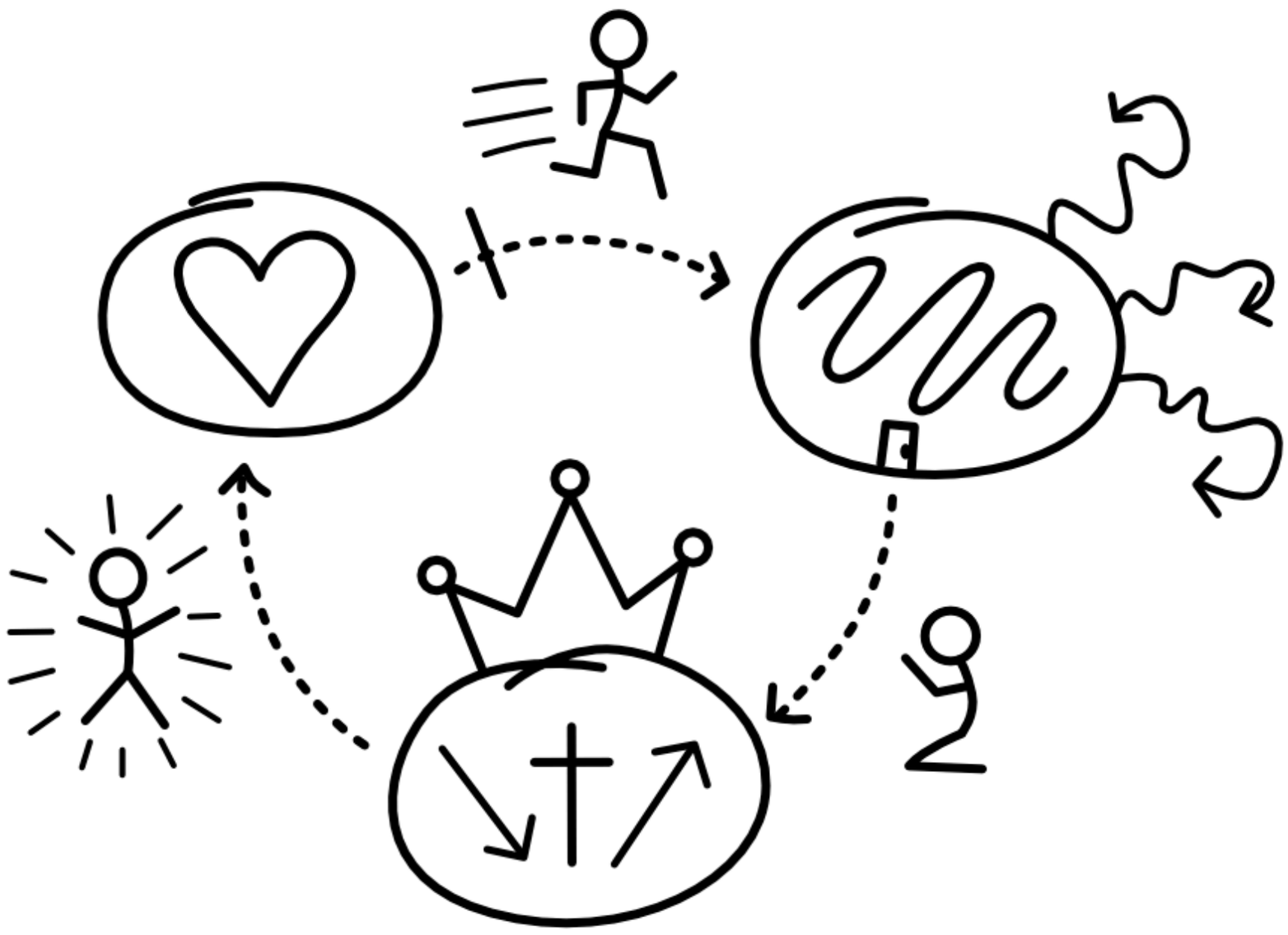
While we neighbor, we need to be willing, open, and expectant for God to provide opportunities to share the Gospel with our neighbors. Gospel conversations are best done within relationships that you build.

SHARE

All disciples of Jesus are sent to share the Gospel. You are sent to your neighbors. We are called to obedience, yet God is the One doing the work of saving.

Here are some tools to help you in sharing the Gospel with your neighbors:

- **Share Your Story:** You are a witness to what God has done in your life, bringing you from death to life. Share what Jesus has done for you.
- **3 Circles**: This is a tool that you can use to share the Story of God and the Gospel with your neighbors. Want training? Email jacob.brumley@lhbg.org.



Download the Life on Mission App from NAMB
https://www.namb.net/evangelism/life-on-mission-app/

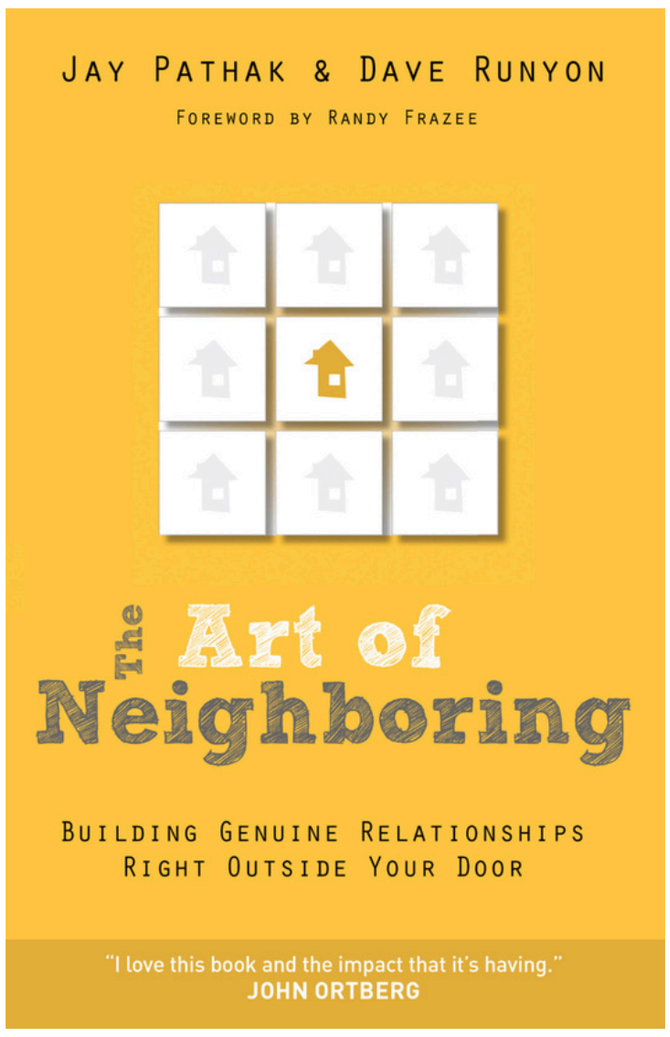
SHARE

Conversation Bridges to the Gospel

- “Are you religious or spiritual? How so?”
- “Did you grow up going to church?”
- “Where are you on your personal journey for purpose? How has that gone for you?”
- “What do you think it means to be a Christian?”
- “What are your thoughts on _____ (God, Jesus, Bible, meaning of life, religion...)?”
- “What specific questions or concerns are hanging you up in your spiritual journey?”
- “Is there something that I can be praying about for you?” [Take the time to pray the Gospel with them.]
- “Can I share with you something that is very important to me?”
- “I don’t know what you’re going through, but I don’t think that I would make it through hard times without Jesus. Can I share that with you?”

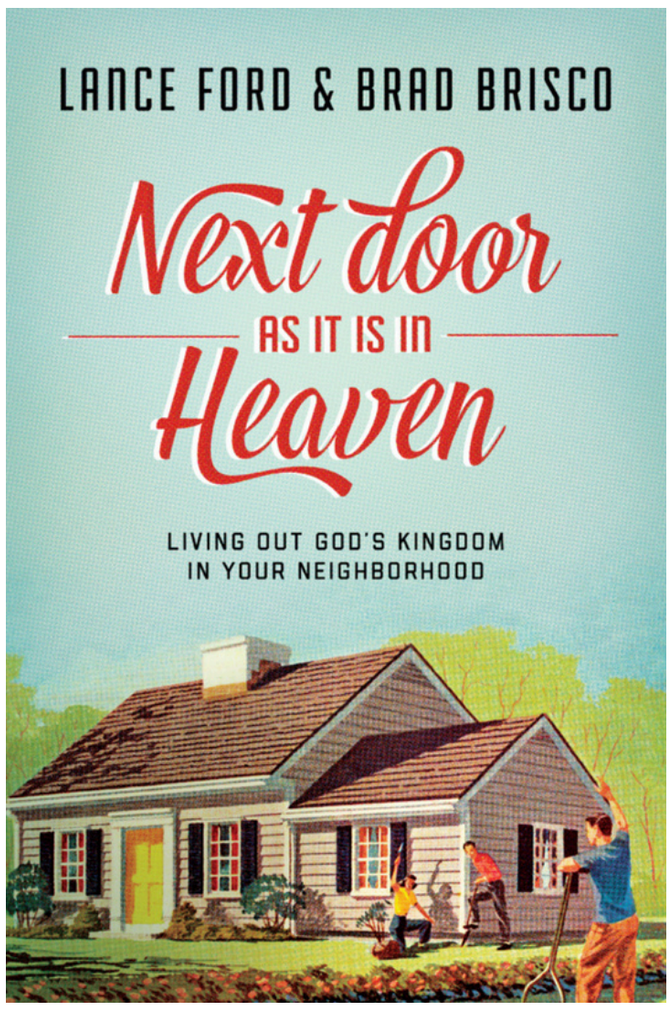
Neighboring Resources

RESOURCES



The Art of Neighboring
Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon
https://www.artofneighboring.com/

Next Door As It Is In Heaven
Lance Ford & Brad Brisco



Bless Every Home
https://app.blesseveryhome.com/

BLESS

BLOCK MAP

Neighbor 1

a.

b.

c.

Neighbor 2

a.

b.

c.

a. the names of your neighbors

b. the occupations of your neighbors

My House

c. a personal detail about your neighbors (hobbies, life goals...)

Neighbor 3

a.

b.

c.

Neighbor 4

a.

b.

c.

LOCAL IMPACT MISSIONS

SENT TO BOWLING GREEN