

Praying For Your Neighborhood

Take a minute and **think about your neighborhood**. Is it urban, suburban, or rural? Are there cross-streets and cul-de-sacs or long narrow roads surrounded by trees and fields? Are there apartments, houses, barns, or a mix of them all?

Take another minute to **think about your neighbors**. Do they live 10 feet away or 10 acres away. Can you picture their faces? What are their names? What do they drive? Where do they work? Who are their teachers? What nationality are they? Do they know Jesus...like you know Jesus?

Jesus said, in **Matthew 28:19-20**:

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all
that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always,
to the end of the age.”**

Later Jesus said, in **Acts 1:8**:

**“But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
and you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth.”**

Friends, we’ve been **commissioned by Jesus** to multiply disciples and we’ve been **given the power through the Holy Spirit** to actually do it. What are we waiting for? **Let’s start with our neighborhoods!**

There are **Five Characteristics to a Disciple Making Culture**:

1. Intentional
- 2. Prayerful**
3. Relational
4. Accountable
5. Reproducible

Start with prayer!

1. Begin by deciding how big your neighborhood is. It may be the length of your city block or it may be a full county mile, or any size in-between.
2. Then, make a list of those neighbors you already know. Maybe find a map of your neighborhood, or draw one up, and write their names on the map where they live.
3. Next, **walk (or drive) your neighborhood at least once a week, praying for those neighbors you know**. Maybe use *The Lord’s Prayer* as a guide for how to pray? Maybe invite others to join you?
4. As you walk, greet any neighbors you may meet along the way. Learn more about those you already know and be intentional about meeting those you don’t already know. Add them to your map and start praying for them as well.
5. Finally, as you look at your map and as you walk and pray, make a **BIG ASK** of your Heavenly Father... **Ask him to make you one who lives like Jesus AND leads one or two others in your neighborhood to do the same.**