

OPEN

Describe an interesting or memorable interaction you've had with someone in your neighborhood that was unexpected. What were the circumstances of this interaction? What kind of relationship was formed after this interaction?

We all know that Jesus desires for us to love our neighbors—we've all heard the Great Commandment and understand that our neighbor can be anyone we come into contact with. But taking that next step to engage with the strangers around us can often be intimidating and downright uncomfortable.

In session one, Jay Pathak explains how we can start by reaching out to the people who live next door to us. Sometimes all it takes is a small gesture, a quick question, or a friendly hello to begin the engagement process.

VIEW

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Jay Pathak's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how Jay answers the following questions.

What did the mayor request of Jay and the other pastors? How did they respond? What were they convicted about?

What was the catalyst for Jay's desire to get to know the families in his neighborhood?

How did Jay describe what good neighboring looks like? What did it look like for him when he first started to take it seriously?

SHOW

Session 1: *Rediscovering the Art of Neighboring—Little Things Make a Big Difference* (9 minutes).

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Truly understanding our call to love the people next door can be hard, especially considering the independent culture we live in today. Many of us work from home, have online friendships, and are too busy to meet new people. We're going to see how worrying about more than ourselves can put us on the track to becoming the type of neighbors God has called us to be.

Read Luke 10:25–37.

After reading this parable, how would you describe its message in your own words? What parts of the parable can you identify with the most? Which character do you relate to?

How did the priest and the Levite react to the wounded man on the road? How do you see these same attitudes displayed in our culture today?

Being a good neighbor can be uncomfortable because it can cost us and there is often risk involved. **How did the Samaritan react to the risk of taking care of the man? What did it cost him to do his good deed?**

What do the Samaritan's actions show us about being a good neighbor? What could being a good neighbor involve?

The Great Commandment is to love the lord God with all of your heart, mind and soul, and to love your neighbor as yourself. **What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?**

How does knowing that we are to love our neighbors in the same way that we love and care for ourselves help you see the importance of serving others?

Considering the Great Commandment, how often have you loved your neighbors? How well have you loved your neighbors?

Think about the neighbors in your own neighborhood. Consider the neighbors who have displayed burdens. **In what ways could you help out a neighbor who is struggling this week?**

