Session 1: Rediscovering the Art of	
Neighboring—Little Things Make a	
Big Difference	
SESSION GOALS	
Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.	
Main Idea: Christians can learn what it means to be a good neighbor to the people living nearest to us.	
<b>Head Change:</b> To know God's expectations for us in	
serving and loving our neighbors.	
<b>Heart Change:</b> To feel the desire for connection with the families next door.	
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<b>Life Change:</b> To commit to regular engagement with the people next door by taking the Great Commandment seriously.	
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## **OPEN**

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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).	
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## **REVIEW**

In the first session, Jay explained that the Bible defines our neighbors as everyone, even our neighbors in our neighborhood. Jay's goal is for us to understand that we can start small when it comes to neighboring by talking with those that live right next to us—the people in your apartment building, the families next door, or the couple across the street.	
After watching this session, how would you define being a good neighbor?	
Jay told a story about when he and some other pastors were asked by the mayor to create a way for neighbors to interact with each other. He realized that the request was simple and biblical. What was his reaction and why? Why were the men so convicted?	
Sometimes, we become so consumed with our convenient relationship—like the ones we have with coworkers, college friends, and people in our small group—that we don't even think about the strangers we walk past every day. In what ways can our love for convenience and comfort keep us from being the type of neighbors God has called us to be?	
Jay stated that his life changed because he started to take the Great Commandment in Matthew 22:34–40 seriously. What did applying this commandment look like for him? What steps did he take to ensure he took this commandment seriously?	
Jay shared a story about how he didn't want to deal with people after a long and difficult day, but in the end it was worth it. In what ways can being a good neighbor require us to move out of our comfort zone?	
Jay walked us though a tic-tac-toe board exercise. (If you haven't done the exercise, please take a moment to do that now.) After drawing the board and taking his quiz, what were your results? What are some thoughts you have, whether positive or negative, about your results?	
After seeing your results from the quiz, what are some things you can do to improve how you engage with your neighbors?	

## **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?	
displayed in our culture today:	
Being a good neighbor can be uncomfortable because it can cost us and there is often risk involved. <b>How did the</b>	
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. <b>In</b>	
what ways could you help out a neighbor who is	
struggling this week? rightnow MEDIA	

This week, how can you make yourself more available than usual to the people in your neighborhood?	
LAST WORD	
Engaging our neighbors opens up the opportunity for transformation within our communities. The more transformation we see, the larger the outreach into our world. It all starts with us when we choose to push past our own comfort zone and serve the people around us.	
This week take some time to assess whether you know the people in your neighborhood and form a plan to introduce yourself to a few neighbors.	
DEEPER WALK	
<b>Read</b> : Read chapters 1, 2, and 6 of Dave and Jay's book, The Art of Neighboring. As you read, ask God to reveal to you a few ways you can initiate reaching out to your next-door neighbors.	
<b>Pray</b> : Pray that God would open up a door of opportunity for you to engage in a conversation with a neighbor you don't know.	
<b>Memorize</b> : Memorize Luke 10:27, "So he answered, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your strength and with all of your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."	