Session 4: The Art of Receiving— Reciprocal Relationships Go Both Ways	
SESSION GOALS	
Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.	
Main Idea: Our neighboring relationships should be a two-way street in order to grow and be healthy.	
Head Change: To understand why receiving is just as important as giving in a relationship.	
Heart Change: To feel humility in our relationships with our neighbors.	
Life Change: To allow our neighbors to give and sacrifice for us as we give and sacrifice for them.	
OPEN	
Describe a time when you had to ask for help and didn't want to. For what reasons did you feel this way? How does it make you feel when you're forced to ask for help and why?	
If we're honest, it's a lot easier to be on the giving end of a relationship. Helping others in need makes us feel good, and it usually solidifies the friendship when we're able to give and be kind to someone else. But part of our neighboring journey involves the ability to be humble and allow others to give back to us.	
In this final session, we're going to see how the art of receiving allows others to be a good neighbor to us as we strive to do the same for them.	
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VIEW	
Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Dave's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how Dave answers the following questions.	
How does Dave define "the art of receiving?" Why is it important for us to be good receivers?	
What kind of examples did Dave give us to help enter into our neighbor's world? What advice did he give for making it easy?	
SHOW	
Session 4: The Art of Receiving—Reciprocal Relationships Go Both Ways (7 minutes).	

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REVIEW

Dave told a story at the start of the session about the "lawn guy" who lives across the street from him. He wanted to learn something from his neighbor—a form of receiving that would build a foundation to their relationship. In what ways could being on the receiving end of a relationship—asking for advice in Dave's case—help break the ice when trying to build a bond with our neighbors?	
Dave talked about wanting to put on his "super Christian hero cape" in search of someone he could help when he first moved into his neighborhood. What lesson did he learn from having that perspective? What did he say changed his mind from thinking in that way?	
Wanting to help our neighbors isn't a bad thing, as Dave said—especially if we know that we have a lot to offer. But sometimes, we have to do some self-evaluation to ensure we're not walking in pride. What are some practical things you could do to ensure your engagement with new neighbors isn't fueled by pride?	
Dave shared a story about going hunting with his neighbors. In the beginning, he wanted to skip the hunting conversation and the trip altogether for fear of embarrassment. He knew he'd have to receive so much help and direction, which made him feel uncomfortable. What did Dave learn from the hunting trip that changed his life? How did the trip secure his relationships with those neighbors?	
For many of us, it's much easier to be on the giving end of a relationship than the receiving end. In what ways have you found receiving help, gifts, or advice uncomfortable? What about receiving from others can make us feel uncomfortable?	
Dave told us that relationships are supposed to be reciprocal in order to be healthy and thriving. What are some of the positive aspects of being in a healthy, reciprocal relationship? Why do relationships need to be a two-way street?	
Dave gave a hypothetical example of a friend or neighbor who consistently helped through hard times but rejected rightnow MEDIA	

help in return. When have you experienced this kind of situation? How did it make you feel?	
BIBLE EXPLORATION	
As we learn about the art of receiving, we must remember that receiving from others allows them to fulfill the command to be good neighbors as well. Giving our neighbors the opportunity to serve and love us is just as important as serving and loving them back.	
Dave talked to us about the art of receiving by using the example of Jesus and the woman with the alabaster box.	
Read Matthew 26:6–13.	
How does the author describe the perfume the woman poured on Jesus? Why do you think this fact is important?	
The woman came to anoint Jesus with her valuable possession. Instead of denying her gift, he allowed her to serve him. How were Jesus's actions a display of "the art of receiving" that Dave talked about?	
It can be hard receiving valuable gift from others, but it can be even harder when we know that the person is having financial issues, struggling to find extra time, or experiencing extreme health issues—we feel like more of a burden by accepting. How would you feel if someone insisted on giving you a sacrificial gift? How do you think you'd respond in that situation?	
The disciples felt that the perfume should have been given to the poor instead of to Jesus. Based on Dave's explanation, why was it important for Jesus to receive the woman's sacrifice?	
The relationship that was formed with the woman and Jesus could have been damaged if he had he chastised her for her gift. In what ways could being on the receiving end of a relationship with your neighbor make the relationship stronger?	
What are some practical steps you can take to reorient your perspective about receiving from others? How can you ensure that you receive from a neighbor the next time they offer their advice, their help, or a gift?	

LAST WORD

In order to have reciprocal relationships, we have to allow our neighbors to help us, even when we don't think we need it. If there is a single mom who has been receiving help with money, childcare, or food from her neighbor, her desire to extend the same kindness by lending her extra bag of mulch should be accepted with humility and kindness.	
The art of receiving is all about being aware—we all have needs and we all need to be vulnerable to have those needs met. The next time someone offers their help, instead of trying to figure it out on your own, take a chance and say yes.	
It's the end of the series, and we've covered a lot when it comes to getting to know the families within our own neighborhoods. It may seem like a big mission, but Dave and Jay taught us that we can start small—learn your neighbors' names and say hello every day. If we all commit to the small steps, then we could see transformation across our communities as we display the love of Christ.	
DEEPER WALK	
Read : Read chapter 8 of Jay and Dave's book, <i>The Art of Neighboring</i> . As you read, ask God to help you learn how to value receiving in the relationships you have with your neighbors.	
Pray : Pray and ask God to help you remember that your neighbors have the right to be good toward you in the same way you try to be good toward them.	
Ask : Pick one neighbor this week and ask them something about their life. If it's the woman who is constantly gardening, ask her how she maintains her garden. If it's a man always working on his cars, ask him what tools he recommends. Ask a question that allows	

expectations.

you to receive valuable information from them with no