





## **REVIEW**

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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

help in return. **When have you experienced this kind of situation? How did it make you feel?**

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## **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.

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Dave talked to us about the art of receiving by using the example of Jesus and the woman with the alabaster box.

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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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?**

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**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?**

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