

God's Heart, My Hood



Family - Neighborhood - Nations

- Vital areas of concern for followers of Christ.
- Areas of priority for our prayers & acts of faith.
- Areas that tell us something about God's heart.

Intro:

>> Describe the best or the worst neighbor you've ever had? If asked, how would your neighbors describe you?

God's heart: That we live life IN CHRIST- ON MISSION- FOR OTHERS. Ephesians 2:8-13 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 2:3-4, 2 Corinthians 5:15

>> God's heart is to have a RELATIONSHIP with you and to use you for His PURPOSES.

Someone in the group tell about when they began a relationship with God.

Someone tell about a time when God used them for His purpose.

God's Heart & Directions for Neighborhoods:

- SALVATION so we WITNESS. 2 Peter 3:9, Acts 1:8
- GLORIFY GOD so we SHINE. Matthew 5:16
- JUSTICE / MERCY so we LOVE. Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 22:37-39

>> What are some opportunities we may have with those close to us to talk about salvation? What about to shine through good deeds? What about to love by showing mercy?

>> What are some real life examples that you've seen or heard of, of people demonstrating God's heart by witnessing, shining, loving others?

God's Heart, MY HOOD:

1. *Do you KNOW them?* Complete the Neighborhood Block Map. Fill in the neighbors you don't know this week.
2. *Do you have TIME?* Does your pace allow you to be present with those near you? Ask God to arrange your priorities so that you can witness, shine, and love others as He desires.
3. *How can you SERVE?* Discuss ways that you can serve those near you. Is there a neighbor or coworker that you feel God calling you to spend more time with?

Diagnostic Questions for Neighboring Well

Would anyone care if you put a for sale sign in your yard?

1. Are you a character in the story of your neighborhood? Would others truly consider you a character in the story of your place?
2. Is your home a fortress from life or a hub for life? A hub for ministry or a refuge from ministry?
3. How many people enter your house in the course of a month? How many of those people don't know Jesus?
4. lingering is a sign others are comfortable enough to stay when everyone else has gone. How many people have lingered in your home this month?
5. You know people are getting comfortable with you when they start to inconvenience you. How many last-minute favors have friends and neighbors asked of you this month?
6. How many meals have you shared with people far from the church this month?
7. How many unexpected opportunities have you seized for the sake of embodying and proclaiming the gospel?

from the book Staying is the New Going: Choosing to Love Where God Places You by Alan Briggs.

Also, check out the site <http://www.artofneighboring.com/> for resources.