



Becoming the Neighbors the World Needs

A Bible Reading Plan

Session One: Seeing Our Neighbors

This is session one of the **Becoming the Neighbors the World Needs Bible Reading Plan**. Through these five study sessions, we'll be exploring what it means to find our neighbors – and what it means to be one. Today we begin by opening our eyes.

Opening Devotional

God has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God. [Micah 6:8]

Prayer

Faithfulness in doing what the Lord requires. May the Lord open our eyes.

Scripture*

Luke 10:25-37

Explore

What is the importance of Jesus' question to his hearers?

Discuss

- Who has been an unexpected neighbor to you?
- How do we see those to whom God calls us to be neighbors?
- How do we cross the street?

Real Life Stories

After losing her job due to pregnancy complications and not being able to work, Jenny found herself with a toddler, pregnant, and no place to call home. Jenny said, "Becoming homeless can happen to anyone. Nobody is so much better that they may not find themselves in the same predicament. Everybody who is homeless doesn't necessarily want to be there. People have hopes and dreams and goals. And even though I was homeless, I still had a plan for my life and a plan for my sons."

"I'll never forget the day we were evicted," said Naomi. "It was my oldest daughter's birthday." Problems with reliable day care had caused Naomi, a single mother, to miss work. She eventually lost her job. No job meant no money for rent; then came the eviction. Shortly after, Naomi and her family packed up and moved into a shelter for homeless families. "I was in the worst spot you can be," said Naomi.

Susan's beautiful family fell apart when she lost her job at nearly the same time as having to get a court order to protect her daughters from her ex-boyfriend. Susan discovered that all of the local shelters were full, so her pastor helped her to find temporary housing in the basement of a church member's home. The small room with one mattress did not have heat, windows, or a kitchen. "I was in dire need of housing and employment," Shauna said. "I left a bad situation with only my faith, my children, and the clothes on my back. I was desperate, so I started working a 28–32 hour a week job at a drugstore for minimum wage. But the rent was \$650 a month, so you do the math!"

Julie was living in a mobile home without heat or electricity. She had fled her abusive husband and had two children with another on the way. Julie had worked as a licensed practical nurse but had lost her job and her apartment because she did not have adequate or reliable childcare. Julie shared, "I wanted a job. But to get a job, I needed childcare. But to get childcare (from social services), you have to be employed. So, you get stuck in this cycle and you can't get out of it."

Summary

So often we live among people we've never truly seen. But Scripture calls us to more. As we look at a parable that may be familiar to us, the Good Samaritan, we're invited to notice not just the story, but the posture of Jesus as he asks, "Who was a neighbor?" Micah 6:8 grounds us and reminds us of what God asks of us: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

Reflection & Practice

- How might we better hear and see our neighbors?

- This week, have a conversation with someone whose story you don't know.
- Read the [Book of Ruth](#) before the next session.

*When doing this Bible Reading Plan as a group, consider using the [African Bible Study Method](#) or another form of communal reflection. The goal is to read scripture together and listen attentively for how God is speaking to us through the Word.

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