



Leading People into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: Are We Good Neighbors?

Sermon Series: Neighbors

Dates: February 25-26, 2017

Suggested Conversation Starter

Did you get a chance to meet a neighbor this week?

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One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" The man answered, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

"Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

"Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same." Luke 10:25-37 (NLT)

Jesus' love (desire for someone's GOOD) is INCLUSIVE, not EXCLUSIVE. This does not mean that Jesus accepts all behaviors, lifestyles, opinions, or desires as legitimate, healthy, or normal. If you've ever eaten too many donuts and felt the negative effects later, you know that your desires sometimes lead you down a path that is NOT good for you!

Think about this: true love is GOING and DOING things that will cause good to come into the lives of your neighbors.

Sermon Videos: www.lifeisforliving.org/messages

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Think about this progression: Jesus teaches you how to love YOU. Then out of that transformation (learning how to love yourself as Jesus loves you), you carry that on into your relationships.

What does it look like to love yourself?

How do you treat yourself when you fail?

Have you learned to be patient and kind with yourself?

Have you forgiven yourself? Why or why not?

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Think for a moment what it must have taken to become an “expert in religious law.” And yet, despite this man’s high and honorable role, his heart was not right.

How do you cultivate an open, kind heart towards all people?

Is it possible to be a stellar rule-follower and still not love your neighbor?

Why is it so difficult to love our neighbor as we love ourselves—what do we need to confess that runs deep in our human hearts?

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Pastor John’s message, stated simply, is “GO and DO!”

What does “going” look like in your neighborhood, school, workplace, or even family?

What has God given you to “do” for someone right now to show them Jesus’ love?

Pray!

We are much more likely to follow through with our commitments if we share our commitments and ask someone to pray for us to have strength to accomplish what our faith has prompted us to do. How can your group pray for you to “go and do”?