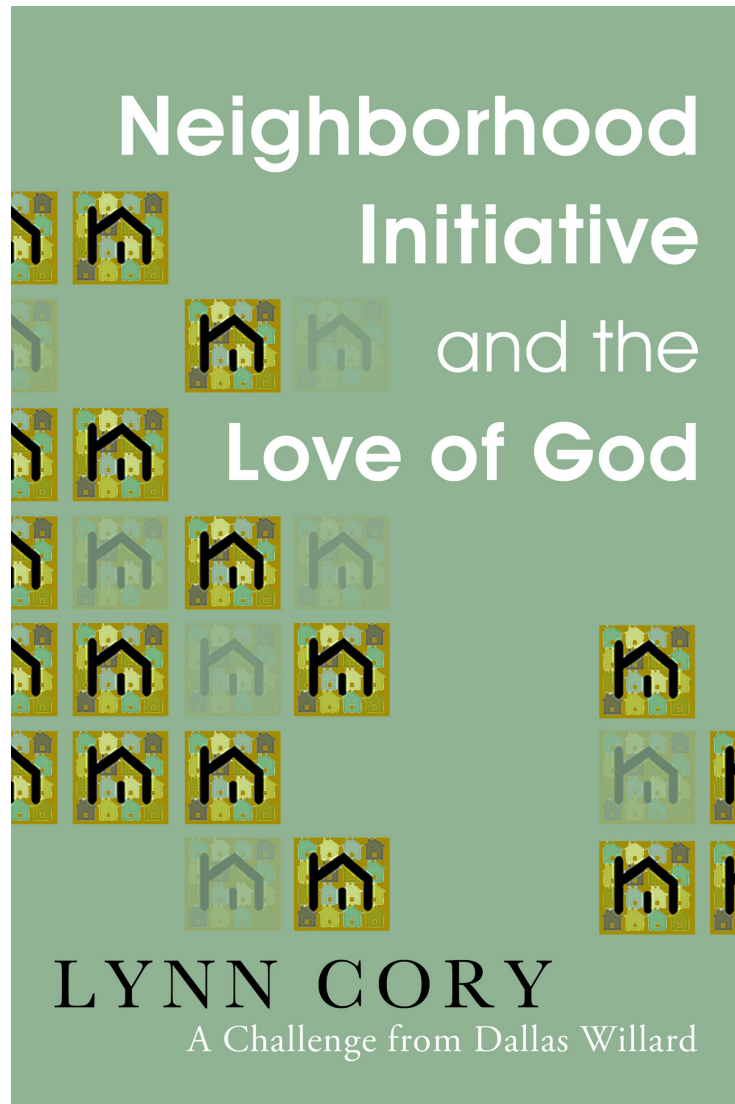


RESOURCE GUIDE FOR THE NEIGHBORING-FOCUSED LIFE GROUP

Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God



The chapter by chapter questions are based on the Eight Foundational Practices¹ and Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God².

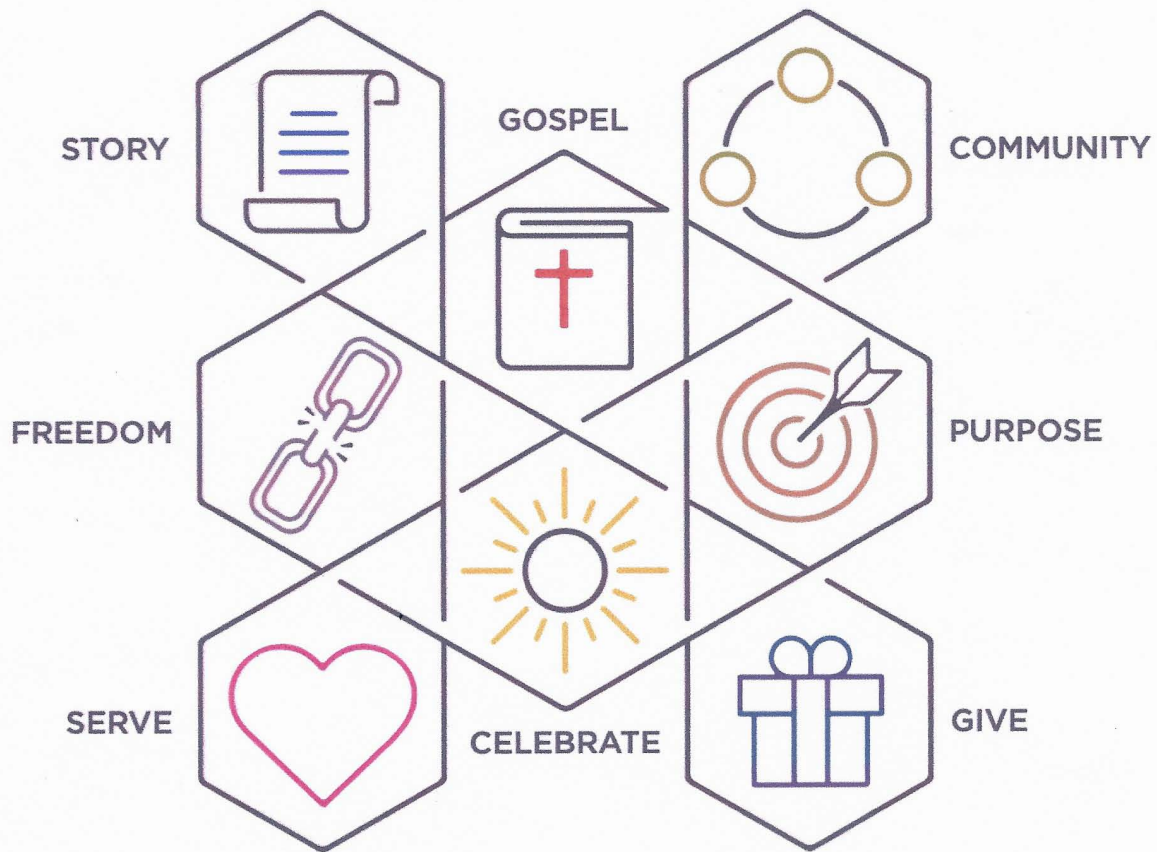
Compiled by Jim Lloyd
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The Well Community Church, 2022

¹ The Well Community Church

² Lynn Cory

The Well Community Church

Life Group Guide

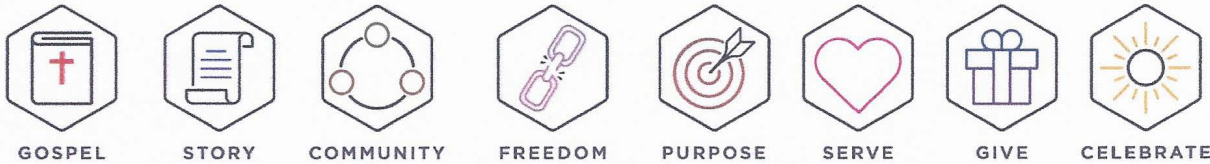


LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Welcome to the Life Group Discussion Guide, which integrates the eight foundational practices of the Well Community Church and Lynn Cory's book, Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God. Over the course of the next several weeks you will experience the "how" for living out the Well's mission "Connecting to God and each other in every neighborhood." Together you will explore the Bible, engage in experiences, shared stories, and live out practices, which will deepen your relationship with Christ. As followers of Christ, we are continuing to be transformed into Christ likeness through God's word, spirit, and people. This study will allow you to listen and learn together but also live out these foundational practices and to encourage each other as you live on purpose in your neighborhood... where you live, work, and play.

As you read through the eight foundational practices, identify which practice feels more integrated into your life right now and which practice feels like a growth area.

8 FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICES



1. **Embracing the Gospel** (Colossians 2:6-7)

Embracing the Gospel is at a point in time and over time. We trust Christ as our Savior and Lord for eternity and for today. Daily, we are learning how to walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.

2. **Sharing Your Story** (1 Peter 3:15)

We have the opportunity to share what God did and is still doing in our lives today. As we learn to recognize God's work in and around us, we can point others back to Christ's ongoing work in our lives. We are continuing to be transformed into Christlikeness.

3. **Intentionally Pursuing Community** (Hebrews 10:23-25)

As the family of God, we enjoy a shared experience of life with God. We encourage one another, pray for one another, stir up one another to love and good works, and grow together as we walk through conflict in a God-honoring way.

4. Experiencing Ongoing Freedom (1 John 1:6-10)

We experience ongoing freedom through confession, repentance, and forgiveness. As we walk in the light together, we experience true freedom and fellowship.

5. Living on Purpose (Ephesians 2:10)

We invest our lives eternally--according to God's design. Our skills, gifts, passions, experiences, and relationships all contribute to living out our God-given purpose.

6. Serving Faithfully (Matthew 5:16)

We put the gospel on display as we serve others in our family, workplace, and community.

7. Giving Generously (I Timothy 6:17-19)

We are stewards of God's resources, which include our time, talents, and resources. Generosity is a posture of the heart -- we have been blessed to be a blessing to others.

8. Celebrating the Work of God (I Thessalonians 5:16-18)

We mark moments, make memories, and joyfully delight in the life with God! We call out God's work in one another's lives and praise the One who created us and delights in us.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE		
Neighborhood Initiative	Pages	Foundation Practices
Challenge from Dallas Willard and What is Neighborhood Initiative	9-20	Purpose & Gospel
How it Started	21-23	Story
The Long Wait	25-28	Story
Ministry Begins at Home	29-32	Community
Conspiracy of Kindness	33-36	Serve
Hospitality and Compassion	37-41	Serve
Doing What Jesus Did	43-47	Purpose
Set up the Building Blocks	49-51	Community
Shining Light into Darkness	53-55	Gospel
Side by Side, All Over the Country	57-58	Purpose
Sowing the Seeds	59-60	Gospel
A Simple Plan	61-64	Gospel
The Home Centered Ministry	65-68	Community
Boldness and Benefits	69-71	Freedom
The Church Becomes Missional	73-74	Purpose
The Churches New Frontiers	75-80	Freedom
The 5 Essentials	81-90	Purpose
The Overall Plan	91-102	Celebrate

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Living on Purpose: Ephesians 2:10

Read Ephesians 2:10. In what way is our life in Christ a display of God's amazing workmanship? In what ways can you leverage this amazing display in your neighborhood? (Where you live, work and play)

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: Challenge from Dallas Willard (pp. 9-14)

1. He says "neighborhood initiative is the only thing that can bring life to our cities now." Agree – Disagree, why?

2. Love God first... Then you have access to the resources, insights, and devotion to the work He is doing:

- What are some of those resources
- How do we gain insight
- How can I devote my time, when I'm working full-time, have family responsibilities, and serving elsewhere?

3. Dallas writes (p.10) that we often miss His (Jesus) mission in the world. It's incarnational. It comes through people. What does this mean and how are we to respond?

4. How do we meet the needs of widows and orphans in our day?

(Those who have enough to eat but are starved in there soul- and don't know God loves them because it hasn't come to them through people around them)

5. Neighbors are hard to reach. The saying "A man's home is his castle" has taken on the force of a moat around the house with alligators in it to keep people away. How do we get beyond this image according to Willard?

Here are the essentials to loving your neighbor as yourself:

- Patients
- Prayer
- Watch
- Willingness to serve
- To know and to be known

6. Dallas Willard identifies the church as the natural leaders in neighborhood initiative. The pastors are the teachers and they must stand and teach this. On a scale of 1-10, how is your church doing?

7. Romans 11:13 says: I magnify my ministry... (NASB) I magnify my office... (KJV) What does this mean to magnify your ministry or office?

We are all spokesperson for Christ:

- Pastors and teachers
- Lay leaders
- Volunteers

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE Embracing the Gospel: Colossians 2:6-7

Read Colossians 2:6-7. In verse 6 Paul says "... As you have receive Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him..." What does it mean in practice to "walk in him"? How can we do this intentionally where God has planted us?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: What is Neighborhood Initiative? (pp. 19-20)

1. At the beginning of the introduction Lynn Cory answers the question, "What is Neighborhood Initiative?" Read his statement on page 19 then restate his answer in your own words.

2. One of the keys to success in Neighborhood Initiative is "meeting people where they are just as Christ did." Think about your neighborhood, where you live, where you work, and where are you recreate... Can you identify an opportunity to put neighboring into practice?

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Sharing Your Story: I Peter 3:15

Read I Peter 3:15. We are living in uncertain and perilous times. How would you explain to a neighbor, coworker or teammate the “hope” that is in you?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 1
How it Started (pp. 21-23)

1. Why do you think those inside the church are somewhat resistant to get outside the church?
 - One more commitment
 - Agreed with passion – just not moved by it

2. It took the pastor time to understand what God was doing. What does that say about you and I?
 - Humble our intention and will to God's will

3. The author describes Paul's process as:
 - Hear
 - Move
 - OpportunitiesWhat does he mean by this?

4. How have you seen this in your own life?

Promise keepers October 4, 1997 – national mall Bill McCartney

His challenge: “Go back win your cities...”

Transformation video: George Otis Jr.

It is a powerful work of God when people pray and intercede for a city (Some question Otis theology on original sin). This movement led to prayer on Friday nights 10 PM once a month...

Dallas Willard offered encouragement: “give it five years”

5. How can we win our neighborhoods? Our city?

6. What practical applications can you make with your neighbors from this section?

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Sharing Your Story: I Peter 2:9-10

Read I Peter 2:9-10. What do you think it means to “proclaim the excellences or declare the praises (NIV) of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light? What are some ways to do this both verbally and nonverbally in your neighborhood?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 2
The long Wait (pp. 25-28)

What is it and why did it take so long?
What does God want us to do?

Missional Living

- Be a missionary: Part of the local mission in our neighborhood
- Pray with other pastors
- Build relationships with each other

Translation

- Be a missionary in your neighborhood
- Pray with other Christians in your neighborhood
- Build relationships with neighbors and each other

How it could work

1. Begin thinking and praying for your neighborhood as though you were on the mission field. (Oh, by the way, you are.) What are some things you could do?
2. Ask God to direct you to other Christians in your neighborhood. What are ways Christians self-identify?
3. Invite them over and share your vision: neighborhood initiative. Do you have a clear understanding of the vision? Can you articulate the vision?
4. Ask them to join you in praying and prayer walks. Encourage them to go with their spouse.
5. Invite them for dinner, barbecue, coffee and dessert

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Intentionally Pursuing Community: Hebrews 10:23-25

Read Hebrews 10:23-25. The author of Hebrews calls for believers to consider how they might stimulate (NASB) stir up (ESV) spur (NIV) one another to love and good deeds. What are some ways to do this in your neighborhood or community?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 3
Ministry Begins at Home (pp. 29–32)

1. What advantages are there in ministry at home? What obstacles might there be?

2. Mike and Mary Day offered a couple of ideas from their neighborhood. What are other ideas that may draw neighbors together?

3. What do you think Lynn Cory means when he says that, “neighborhood ministry is not an approach to sharing the gospel per se, but rather a context for ministry”? (p. 31)

4. What are the identified steps or process in neighborhood evangelism?
 - Establish relationships in process of serving
 - We get to know them and they get to know us
 - Through knowing, we become aware of deeper needs
 - We begin to pray for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our neighbors

This becomes the natural progression. Could you see this process working in your neighborhood? Explain.

5. We have an opinion about our neighbors. They have an opinion about us. How can neighboring change opinions?

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Serving Faithfully: Matthew 5:16

Read Matthew 5:16. The passage says “...Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works...” what are some ways we can let our “light shine” and do so humbly? Can you think of a time you did this or you saw someone do this for you or another?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 4
Conspiracy of Kindness (pp. 33–36)

1. How do you demonstrate kindness on a daily basis? How do you show Gods love in practical ways?
2. How does your church do this?
3. What is the concern as identified by the author?
No relationships are built or established
4. Solution: Move acts of kindness into the neighborhood
 - Experience God's presence doing kind things
 - Building relationships: (following Christ directive love your neighbors)
5. Invest in people where they are: Example of Domingo Cabral...
The church painted five homes in the neighborhood, and his was one of them. This is his reaction:
 - Saw action- house painted
 - Shocked by Church demonstrating love
 - Kept his distance- a test
 - Demonstration of genuine love: cut/trim trees as they said
6. How does loving our neighbors bring together “revelation” and “servant evangelism”?
 - Christianity as seen through the veil of religion
 - Jesus came to dwell in relationships
 - Steps to take: L – T – L
 - a. Look: for needs
 - b. Take: initiative
 - c. Let: the fun begin

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Serving Faithfully: Matthew 20:25-28

Read Matthew 20:25-28. In this passage, Jesus calls his disciples and then compares the rulers of the Gentiles with them. What is the standard He sets for leadership? Where have you seen this standard put into practice? What are some ways you could serve your neighbors?

LIFE QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 5
Hospitality and compassion (pp. 37-41)

Introduction:

- 1 How have you seen God at work in your neighbor?
2. What Kairos experiences have you had the past couple of weeks?
3. I'd like to focus our prayer time on specific neighbors: pray by name

Lynn Cory's story:

1. It's been difficult getting to know neighbors (safe neighborhood). Why might it be difficult to get to know neighbors from an affluent neighborhood? What are the challenges from a poor neighborhood?
2. Greatest threat to my ability to demonstrate love for my neighbors is a very busy schedule. What are some ways to deal with this challenge or threat as Cory puts it?
 - Mindful of time and energy
 - Listen to the Holy Spirit

Mary Alice story

Jewish man – suicide attempt... Why care? Love and compassion for people comes from Jesus...

Young woman - suicide contemplation, Iran, no family support, kindness showed her someone cared.

We are good Samaritans to people... Can you think of a time when you were either the “good Samaritan”, the man beaten and robbed, or the religious leaders who passed on the other side?

What spoke to you most about this Chapter?

Application:

Pray for your neighbors by name

Jesus said: I can only do what I see the father doing

John 5:19

Find out what the father is doing in your neighborhood

Replicate

Kairos moments (opportunities)

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Living on Purpose: Colossians 3:17, 23

Read Colossians 3:17, 23. What do these two passages suggest about both our attitude and practice in the jobs we have and the tasks we are assigned? Can you think of an example where this was applied in your neighborhood or community?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 6
Doing What Jesus Did (pp. 43–47)

Power Evangelism: God working through his people to bring about something they could not do on their own.

1. Prayer: willingness to ask if I can pray for them. It's obedience, to pray when someone needs prayer. Describe a time when you did this at work or in your neighborhood.
2. The Lord wants us to take bold steps of faith in asking if we can pray for those in our neighborhoods as they have needs. **STOP:** Ask your life group if they know someone in their neighborhood who could use prayer right now? Take a few minutes and pray for those mentioned by name.
3. Nudge the neighbors: So many people believe God is angry, judgmental, and distant. We have the privilege of carrying on Jesus' ministry. Nudge your neighbors closer to our loving God. What are some practical ways to "Nudge the Neighbors"?
4. Questions:
 - Where did the author step out in faith?
 - Share a time when you stepped out in faith.
 - In this context, how is faith spelled?

R-I-S-K (Explain)

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Intentionally Pursuing Community: I Corinthians 12:12-27

Read I Corinthians 12:12-27. We are members of the body of Christ. There are many members but only one body. Why is the spiritual diversity within the Christian community so vital for us? Suggest ways you can leverage this spiritual diversity in your neighborhood.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 7
Set up the Building Blocks (pp. 49–51)

Open: Review the opening story about Lynn collecting food from his neighbors. One individual told him why he was giving the food... “It's because you are our neighbor and I trust you.”

When relationships are built in neighborhood:

- Trust is restored
- Community is revive

1. Why is this important and how do you build trust with your neighbors? More importantly, if you have lost trust how can you begin to rebuild it?

Randy Frazee in his book *Making Room for Life* said, “...Five things make up building blocks for community”: (Can you identify them?)

- Spontaneity
- Availability
- Frequency
- Common meals
- Geography

2. Look over this list: if we are serious about loving our neighbors then think of what you might do this week that touches one or two of the five building blocks for community. Share your thoughts on any of the five building blocks.

3. Isolation destroys community. What can you do to overcome isolation in your neighborhood?

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Embracing the Gospel: John 3:16-18

Read John 3:16-18. What elements of the gospel are found in this passage? Take a few minutes to consider the following: If you were to die and stand before God and He asked you, “why should I let you, a sinner, enter into my holy presence where there is no sin?” How would you answer?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 8
Shining Light into Darkness (pp. 53–55)

Open:

God's kingdom has the potential to transform a community (p. 54).

- Do you believe this? Why
- What evidence do you have?
- How has God's kingdom transformed your neighborhood?

1. The title is: **Shining Light into Darkness**. How do we do this in our neighborhoods?

Practical suggestions:

- Be friendly
- Do something kind
- Food
- Conversation
- Meet a need
- Pray with them
- Invite them over

It's not what you don't have it's what you do have...

2. What would it take to turn or bring about a moral and/or spiritual transformation? (Think individual, neighborhood, community, and the city...)

Matthew 13:33 “Kingdom of heaven is like yeast mixed until it's all through the dough...”

3. Matthew 5:14 Jesus said: “you are the light of the world...” This is plan- A. What's plan B? So if we are it... what are we doing?

4. Lynn Cory identifies two ways to hide our light. (p. 54) What are they?

- Retreat
- Become so adept at living in the world that no one can tell us apart from those living in the world

5. Where do we begin? (Acts 1:8)

- Jerusalem – Judea
- Samaria – remotest part of the earth

Where is your Jerusalem?

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Living on Purpose: II Corinthians 5:17-18

Read II Corinthians 5:17-18. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians lets them know that they are a new creation. Identify some ways you have become a new creation. How has the new creation you've become manifested itself in your neighborhood relationships?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 9
Side by Side, All Over the Country (pp. 57-58)

Resources in Fresno

LON: Paul Hartounian ESA (Love Our Neighbors)

- Gathering of pastors and lay leaders
- Bridge church and approximately 20–30 others
- Hosting a regional LON conference May 2017

Can you identify other neighborhood resources that are available in your area?

Art of neighboring website

Three myths:

- Someday things will settle down
- Someday more will be enough
- Everyone lives like this

Which of the three myths do you most closely identify with?

Share stories about your neighborhood

The 8 neighbors quiz:

Can you identify the eight neighbors that that surround your house?

How many neighbors are on your block?

How many can you name?



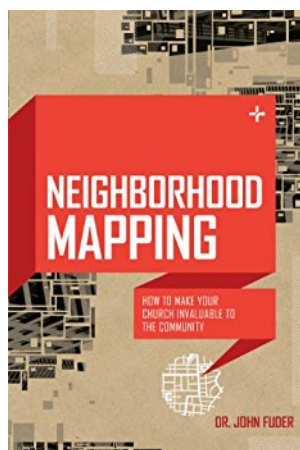
The great commandment: Love your neighbor

The great commission: Go make disciples

Galatians 5:14 "The whole law is fulfilled... in the statement, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Source: The Art of Neighboring by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyou (2012 Bakerbooks)

Neighborhood Mapping: How to Make Your Church Invaluable to the Community by John Fuder



If your church relocated, would your neighbors notice? Would there be an outcry for you to stay?

Whether you are a church planter, pastor, community activist, missionary, college ministry, or simply a Christ-follower looking to impact your community, this resource is for you.

Neighborhood Mapping by Dr. John Fuder is an engaging, practical tool available to assist workers in the field to better understand the communities they are involved with. It awakens the neighborhood explorer with effective methodology for "exegeting" their neighborhood, offering surveys and samples to lead them in that process.

Dr. Fuder calls believers to shift the focus from inside the church building to those who live in the community. He offers here an easy-to-use resource for those who care about ministry to "the least of these."

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Embracing the Gospel: Colossians 3:1-3

Read Colossians 3:1-3. Our new life in Christ is a call to set our minds on the things above not on the things that are on earth. Consider the gospel and setting your mind on things above... Identify ways to sow the seeds of salvation in your neighborhood.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 10
Sowing the Seeds (pp. 59-60)

1. Do you view your home as an assignment or a random placement? Think about the farmer and his field, where is his house? Read Matthew 9:37-38

Note: Your home is the center of the field God has assigned to you.

- What would it look like if you work systematically in your neighborhood?
- Have you considered a game plan for your neighborhood?
- What would it entail?
- What would it cost?
- Where would you begin?
- Are there others in your neighborhood you could enlist to help?

A farmer's View: The ministry God has given to us

- Identify the area to be planted: Neighborhood
- Prepare the soil: prayer
 - Plow
 - Fertilize
- Water
- Remove weeds and rocks

2. Sow the seed: Relationships

- Develop a plan, organization
- Planting
- Nurture and care
- Water
- Fertilizer

Like the farmer we can cultivate and care for the field assigned to us. With that in mind, what is our job?

- Plant the seed
- Care for the crops

It is the Lord's harvest

Matthew 9:37-38

Luke 10:2

- What is your field?
- Where is it located?
- What is your plan? (Systematically work together)
- Who are your co-laborers?

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Embracing the Gospel: Colossians 3:15-17

Read Colossians 3:15-17. Paul reminds us as Christ followers to:

- Let the peace of Christ rule in our heart
- Let the word of Christ dwell within
- Each and admonish one another and wisdom
- Have a thankful heart
- Whatever you do... In word or deed, do all in the name of Jesus

Share with your group how you have applied these practices in your neighborhood?
(Where you live, work and play)

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 11
A Simple Plan (pp.61-64)

Can you simplify Jesus plan? Matthew 10:11-14

- Search for a worthy person. How is this determined?
- Stay at their house. This implies an invitation is given. How do you translate this today for your neighborhood?
- Give the home your greeting. Is this the actual house or the people in the home?
- "If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it". What is meant by "let your peace rest on it?"
- If anyone does not welcome you or will not listen to your words, "...leave, shake off the dust." What about neighbors who don't want to listen?

Advancement is through the unique Christian home
Worthy person: stay in his home

Home was to be the "Center for Ministry"

- How can we make our homes the Center for Ministry?
- Children: no guarantees they will embrace the faith of their parents

What is our responsibility with regard to our children? What is our responsibility as parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents?

Early Christians engaged non-believers outside their front doors

- How are you engaging your neighbors? Neighborhood, job, school, community?
- Why doesn't the church of acts look like the church of today?

The home was the center of ministry in Acts. Today the church building is the center of ministry. We are satisfied with adding people, the attractational model, rather than the incarnational model. Do you agree with this statement? Why or Why not?

Acts 20:20 Paul taught publicly and from house to house

Final thoughts: We are not opposed to the church buildings, but if they: Stand in the way of advancing...

- God's kingdom
- Community
- Priority of family life
- City transformation

If they become:

- Fortress to hide behind
- Protection from the outside world
- Create exclusivity

Then we need to oppose that, Jesus sent his sheep out among the wolves.

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Intentionally Pursuing Community: Genesis 1:26, 2:18

Read Genesis 1:26 and 2:18. In Genesis 1:26 God said, “let us make man in our image, according to our likeness...” Who is the “Us”? **Note:** God lived in community before man and woman were created. In Genesis 2:18 God recognized it was not good to live alone, so He created “a helper suitable for him”, which led to the creation of woman Genesis 2:22. God introduced “Community” as an integral part of creation. **Note:** This was prior to sin's entrance. Identify your community or communities. How are you reflecting the “image of God” (Imago Dei) where you've been planted?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 12
The Home Centered Ministry (pp. 65-68)

Read Luke 10:16

Jesus's plan:

1. Look for people that welcome you. What are the signs of a welcoming person?
 - They are attracted to you
 - They desire what we have
 - They may say you have a peace about you or I like your family

2. Look for a worthy person: Acts 13:16, 48. What makes for a worthy person?
 - What makes one worthy is a receptive heart to the message of the Gospel. Worthiness is not about anything we do but being responsive to what Jesus has said and done on our behalf.

3. Look for people of peace Luke 10:5–6. What does a person of peace look like?
 - Like a worthy person, he/she is someone receptive to the Gospel but with a twist. It implies their heart has been prepared and is open to Jesus and the Gospel. Acts 10 Peter and Cornelius

Two things for sure:

- There are those who are receptive
- There are those who are not receptive

4. Not receptive then move on: Matthew 10:14

It is a choice, if they will not listen and – or if they have chosen to be enemies of God. Move on. The rich young ruler chose not to sell his property and follow Jesus, He made his decision. We want to honor their choice, respect their right to make their decision. Who knows, someone else may be used.

5. Stay with the person of peace: Luke 10:7

Stay in that house and devote time to that relationship. Why is this important?

Woman at the well ultimately called the whole city to come and hear Jesus.

Cornelius and Peter: his whole household accepted Jesus

“When you find gold, there may be a vein...”

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Experiencing Ongoing Freedom: I John 1:6-10

Read I John 1:6-10. Sin and faith can be compared to small seeds. Both grow when watered, fed, and tended... Sin is a byproduct of our fleshly nature while faith is the byproduct of our spiritual nature. Sin results in slavery and death while faith results in freedom and life. Consider breaking into smaller groups (men and women). How are you currently experiencing freedom in Christ? What sin struggles do you need to bring to light? Spend time sharing honestly, praying for one another, and pointing each other towards walking in the light.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 13
Boldness and Benefits (pp. 69-71)

1. When the home becomes the center for ministry, everyone benefits.
 - How is this statement true in your experience?
 - What examples from home support this?

2. Lynn Cory says... We are no longer seen as church people but as neighbors.
 - Do you agree or disagree? Why?

3. He also suggests we see neighbors not as projects but as people.
 - Why is this important?

4. For the church, Cory suggests a home group/life group ministry helps us shed the "Sunday spectator mentality".
 - How is this true?
 - In what ways is a spectator mentality acceptable?

5. When the home is the center of Christian ministry we can't just walk away.
 - Why is this important and what are the benefits?

6. In Ephesians 4:12 it talks about the job of the church. "Equip the saints... " That's you and me... for ministry. The focus is not on growing a bigger building but accomplishing the Great Commission.
 - How does this happen in the home?

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Living on Purpose: I Corinthians 6:19-20

Read I Corinthians 6:19-20. How does knowing "... your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit..." Impact the way you live? Consider your current lifestyle... What you eat and drink, how much or how little you exercise, what you watch and or read... Are there areas you need to modify, change or eliminate? Are there practices you need to begin?

Note: Prayer walking your neighborhood is a great way to start.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 14
The Church Becomes Missional (pp. 73-74)

1. If Churches adopt the neighborhood initiative approach, how would it change them? If the church you attend adopts this approach... How would it be changed?

2. What does it mean for a church to become Missional?
Today 80% of church growth is transfer growth... George Barna, 2002. Mike Breen, *Mission Frontiers*, estimates the number to be 96% cited by Ed Stetzer in *Christianity Today* July 13, 2016.

3. What do missionaries do to grow their churches?
 - Meet neighbors
 - Block parties
 - Establish relationships
 - Serve neighbors
 - Care for neighbors
 - Pray for neighbors
 - Engage in relational activities until the Lord opens the door

4. What is the problem with the American church? Why will there be resistance and where will it come from? What is the solution...? What is the new paradigm?
 - Lost touch with the culture
 - Resistance from the church: (easy, comfortable, and we've always done it this way)
 - Making the home the Center for ministry

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Experiencing Ongoing Freedom: Romans 8:1-11

Read Romans 8:1-11 our new life in Christ has set us free from the law of sin and death. What are some of the intentional ways we can fight against sin, the enemy, and the flesh?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 15
The Churches New Frontiers (pp. 75-80)

1. How do you develop a neighborhood ministry?
 - You start by becoming a good neighbor.
 - Commit yourself to loving your neighbor, led by the Spirit, demonstrating love.
 - Look at what God is doing in your neighborhood already and join Him.

2. Describe interactions you've had with neighbors since you've committed to loving them.

3. What about the hard cases? What can I do and what can God do?
 - I can pray
 - God makes a difference and only God can create opportunities that turn things around... Only God can change hearts and know the hidden key to unlocking relationships.

4. What would you say or how would you encourage Mike and Cindy Carter regarding their Dearing Street neighborhood? Can you identify with the Carter's? If you were in their position, what would you like to hear or how could someone encourage you?

5. Can you identify a plan for your neighborhood?
 - Pray
 - Wait
 - Watch
 - Join

Colossians 4:2, 5

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Give Generously I Timothy 6:17-19

Read I Timothy 6:17-19. Being intentional about loving our neighbors will cost you. Paul writes that God “... Richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.” He continues saying “... Be rich in good works... Be generous and ready to share.” We are stewards of God’s resources, which include our time, talents and treasures. How are you using these resources God has blessed you with to further His kingdom in your neighborhood?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 16
The 5 Essentials (pp. 81-90)

I. The love of God

1. What are the five essentials and in your opinion why are they important?

- Loving your neighbor starts with the love of God
- Reinhabit your neighborhood missionally and emotionally
- Redeem the Kairos
- Have an exponential perspective
- Recognize that you are authorized and commissioned by the Lord

2. God's mission is incarnational it comes through people. How is, “God’s Mission” being accomplished by you?

II. Reinhabit Your Neighborhood

3. How can you realistically and/or practically reinhabit your neighborhood?

- Begin to see your neighbors as Jesus would... (Matthew 9:36 sheep without a shepherd)
- Demonstrate compassion to care for them
- Note: This is not a command to fix or attend to their every need – but you've been strategically placed to love those in your midst.

III. Redeem the Kairos

4. In Ephesians 5:15–16 and Colossians 4:5 Paul writes about redeeming the time or "opportunity". Reflect on a kairos moment you've had recently. Share your opportunity.

5. How to redeem the opportunity or Kairos moment:

- Redeem the opportunity
- Have eyes as Jesus did
- See what God is doing
- Take advantage

IV. Have an exponential perspective

6. What is the danger of setting your expectations about neighborhood ministry too high?

- Frustration and defeat
- Danger of missing the subtle evidence that the Lord is at work
- Be mindful that neighborhood ministry is a process
- See the parable of the Mustard seed (Matthew 13:31–32)

7. How does neighborhood ministry reflect the parable of the Mustard seed in Matthew 13:31–32?

- Small expressions of love for God's kingdom will begin to break into your neighborhood

V. Recognize your commission

8. God has authorized and commissioned you to work in your neighborhood. How does knowing that you've been commissioned and authorized influence the work you do in the neighborhood?

9. Discipleship in the context of neighboring should take place in the natural flow of one's life Matthew 28:19–20, the Great Commission, says make disciples as you go... Or during the natural flow of life. Where does the natural flow of life take us?

- Common community
- Common family
- Common interests

"As you go... Make disciples..."

WARM UP- FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE
Celebrating the Work of God I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Read I Thessalonians 5:16-18. When we talk about giving thanks in all circumstances, we also need to understand that celebration of God actively fights against those attitudes of discontent and despair. Celebration is a choice that changes the heart. Share a time you experienced this changed heart towards people (neighbors) or circumstances.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS: CHAPTER 17
The Overall Plan (pp. 91-102)

Discuss the following elements in the overall plan. Reflect on what you can do individually and corporately as a life group.

1. Getting started

- Be intentional
- Connect to the local church
- Establish a core group of intercessors
- Establish your home as a house of light in the neighborhood
- Free up your schedule
- Establish geographic boundaries
- Prayer walks in the neighborhood
- Observe what God is doing

2. Building relationships

- Spend more time in the front yard
- Become a good neighbor
- Get to know your neighbors
- Spend time with a few neighbors
- Connect with other neighborhood groups
- Attend neighborhood events
- Find a purpose to bring all the neighbors together

3. Developing ministry

- Identify a ministry core
- Agreed on a common purpose
- Meet the needs of people in your neighborhood
- Develop community service teams
- Start a small group for your neighborhood

4. Making disciples

- Find a person of peace
- Establish a one on one relationship
- Start a small group
- Join a community group
- Attend a local church/house church

5. A recap: simple steps to start a neighborhood ministry

- Seek the Lords direction -What is God is doing?
- If married is your spouse in support of engaging in neighborhood ministry?
- If the answer is yes, then inform your church leadership of your intent to begin a neighborhood ministry. If your answer is no, this might not be the time for further investment in neighborhood ministry.
- Ask for 2–3 prayer partners to intercede for you in the neighborhood ministry.
- Pray God would show you the geographical boundaries for your neighborhood ministry.
- Get to know your neighbors by name (adults and children). Begin calling them by name.
- Prayer walks
- Spend time in the front yard
- Spontaneously visit your neighbors
- As the Lord leads, focus on 2–3 neighbors more intentionally. Invite them to dinner.
- Look for needs in the neighborhood and try to meet them.
- Think of fun things to do with your neighbors.