

## IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Rev. Dr. Randy White Center for Community Transformation at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary February 7, 2016

Loving our neighborhood means being available. — John 1:14 (MSG)

What are some things we can do to increase our visibility and availability in our

neighborhood?

Loving our neighborhood means being intentional. - Mark 12:30-31

What areas exist in our neighborhood that can provide an opening for us to intentionally show the love of Christ?

Loving our neighborhood means being transformational. - 2 Kings 4:1-7

Is there something that is not right in our neighborhood; something we know is in need of God's transformation?



- **Lesson Aim:** To grow in our understanding of what it means to love our neighborhoods.
- **Prayer:** Open in prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to guide and bless your gathering.
- Ice Breaker- Share a time when you went to an event and did not know anyone. How did you feel and how did you make new acquaintances?

On Sunday, Dr. Randy White talked about three keywords: available, intentional, and transformational. While keeping these three words in the forefront of our mind, discuss the following questions:

1. How available are you to your neighbors? Could God be challenging you to live life in the front yard, instead of the back?

2. What keeps people from becoming friends with their neighbors?

3. During this month of Missional Living, we are called to Step In and Step Up. What does this mean to you?

- 4. When you consider your "neighborhood" (home-work-school), who comes to mind that you can intentionally build a relationship with? What is it that holds people back from reaching out to others?
- 5. As we assess our position in living a transformational and missionally focused life, what are some immediate changes that you can make in order to make a greater impact wherever you go?
- 6. We know that Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, and as we continue to grow in understanding of what this means, what are some things that you find interesting or challenging about neighboring?
- 7. **Read John 1:14.** Take some time now to thank God for coming to us, teaching us, and neighboring next to us here on earth.

Please spend some time together in prayer asking for God's guidance during this Missional Living month and for you to be a vessel of light to others. Would you also keep our Pastoral Search Team, Elder Board, and church staff in your prayers this week?

Memorizing Scripture is a key tool to resist temptation, make wise decisions, strengthen us under stress, comfort us when we're sad and to witness to those who don't know Christ. **Memory Verse of the Week: 2 Chronicles 15:7**