



**NEXT**  
LEADERSHIP NETWORK

# the neighboring church

getting better at what Jesus  
said matters most

foreword by Gabe Lyons

**Rick Rusaw & Brian Mavis**

**A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK**

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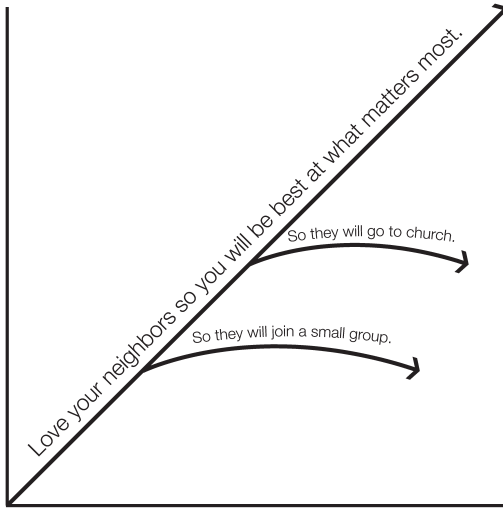
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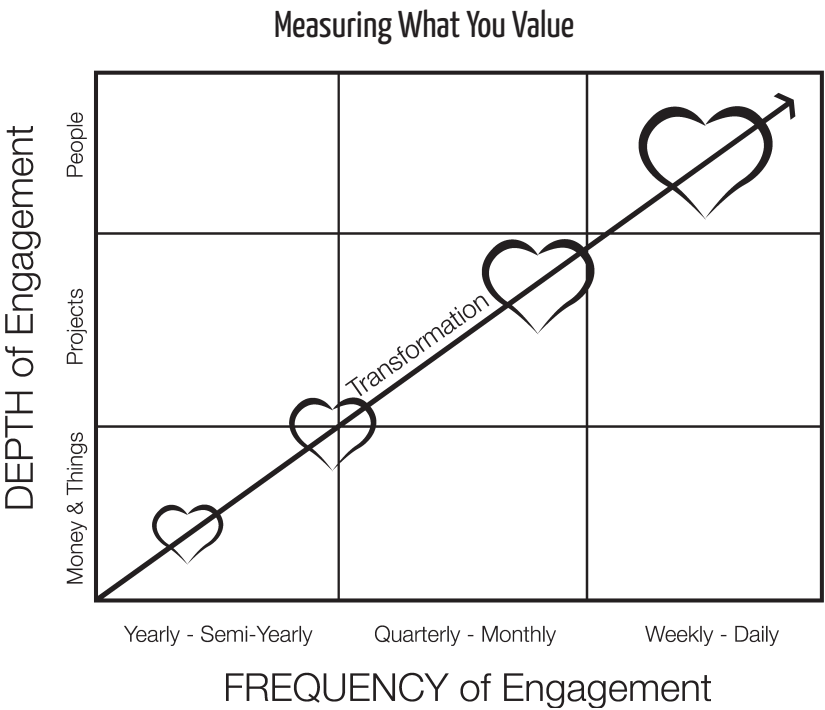
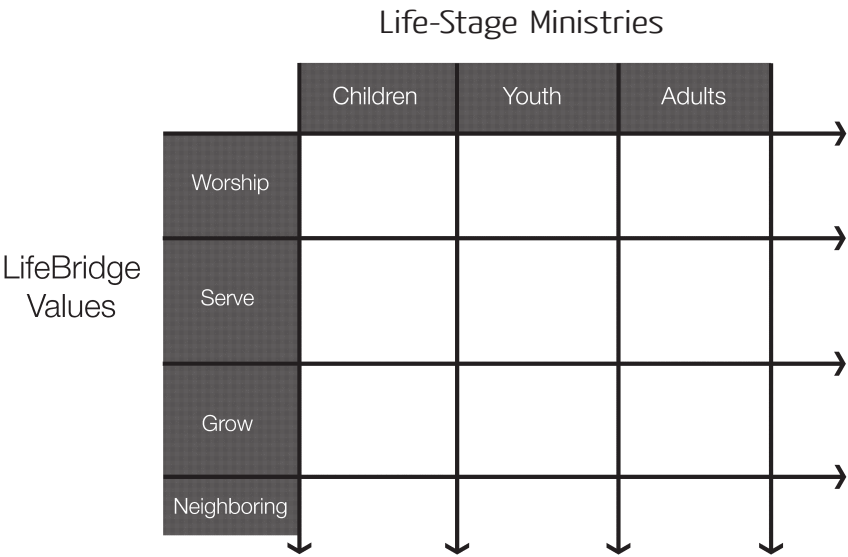
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## Being a Good Neighbor Is Better Than a Good Program

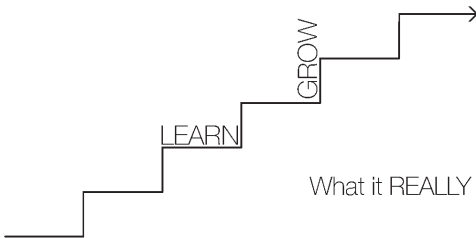
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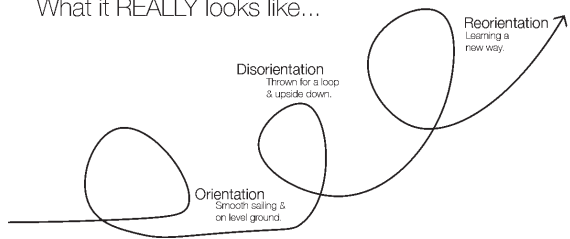


## Who Is My Neighbor?

What we THINK spiritual growth looks like...



What it REALLY looks like...



## What Kind of Neighbor Are You?

I like my neighbors.	Yes	Somewhat	No
My neighbors like me.	Yes	Somewhat	No
I talk to my neighbors.	Yes	Somewhat	No
I do nice things for my neighbors.	Yes	Somewhat	No
I genuinely care about my neighbors.	Yes	Somewhat	No
My neighbors invite me to their parties.	Yes	Somewhat	No
I actually like going to my neighbors' parties.	Yes	Somewhat	No
I know what's happening in my neighborhood.	Yes	Somewhat	No
I watch out for my neighborhood.	Yes	Somewhat	No
When people need help in my neighborhood, they come to me.	Yes	Somewhat	No

Now tally your score: 2 points for every Yes, 1 point for every Somewhat, 0 points for every No.

What kind of neighbor are you?

**17–20 points, Mr. Rogers:** You are the *best* neighbor ever. You know your neighbors, and you're engaged in your neighborhood.

**13–16 points, Steve Urkel:** You are a little quirky and sometimes annoying, but deep down you are good-hearted and always do the right thing.

**9–12 points, Wilson:** You are always there and are always willing to share friendly advice, but you like to stay on your side of the fence.

**5–8 points, Ned Flanders:** You're trying hard, but people are just not getting you.

**0–4 points, Newman:** Not sure who would like living next to you. You are in desperate need of some neighboring help.

View the quiz online at [www.prodonos.com/lbcc](http://www.prodonos.com/lbcc).



# The Practices of Neighboring

Do you know your neighbors' names,  
histories, hopes, and hurts?

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<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	YOU	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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# Appendix

## One Another

Verses highlighting the attitudes and actions we should have for one another.

- **Love** one another: John 13:34–35; 15:12, 17; Romans 12:10; 13:8; 14:13; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11–12; 2 John 1:5
- **Serve** one another: Galatians 5:13, 22; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 4:9; 5:5
- **Accept** one another: Romans 15:7, 14
- **Strengthen** one another: Romans 14:19
- **Help** one another: Hebrews 3:13; 10:24
- **Encourage** one another: Romans 14:19; 15:14; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24–25
- **Care** for one another: Galatians 6:2
- **Forgive** one another: Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13
- **Submit** to one another: Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5
- **Commit** to one another: 1 John 3:16
- **Build trust** with one another: 1 John 1:7
- **Be devoted** to one another: Romans 12:10
- **Be patient** with one another: Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13
- **Be interested** in one another: Philippians 2:4



- **Be accountable** to one another: Ephesians 5:21
- **Confess** to one another: James 5:16
- **Live in harmony** with one another: Romans 12:16
- **Do not be conceited** with one another: Romans 13:10
- **Do not pass judgment** on one another: Romans 14:13; 15:7
- **Do not slander** one another: James 4:11
- **Instruct** one another: Romans 15:14
- **Greet** one another: Romans 16:16; 2 Corinthians 13:12
- **Admonish** one another: 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Colossians 3:16
- **Spur** one another toward love and good deeds: Hebrews 10:24
- **Meet** with one another: Hebrews 10:25
- **Agree** with one another: 1 Corinthians 1:10
- **Be concerned** for one another: Hebrews 10:24
- **Be humble** to one another in love: Ephesians 4:2
- **Be compassionate** to one another: Ephesians 4:32
- **Do not be consumed** by one another: Galatians 5:14–15
- **Do not anger** one another: Galatians 5:26
- **Do not lie** to one another: Colossians 3:9
- **Do not grumble** against one another: James 5:9
- **Give preference** to one another: Romans 12:10
- **Be at peace** with one another: Romans 12:18
- **Sing** to one another: Ephesians 5:19
- **Be of the same mind** with one another: Romans 12:16; 15:5
- **Comfort** one another: 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11
- **Be kind** to one another: Ephesians 4:32
- **Live in peace** with one another: 1 Thessalonians 5:13
- **Carry** one another's burdens: Galatians 6:2

## Neighboring Tips and Texts from the LifeBridge Neighboring Way of Life Ministry

Give the Great Commandment as much organizational visibility as possible. LifeBridge has a neighboring tip of the week on preservice slides and a neighboring text of the week for those who have opted in. We try to keep neighboring on the radar. We never want people to forget, and if they get sick of it, we tell them to take it up with Jesus because we aren't stopping.

Our ground rules for these tips and texts are that these must be encouraging, positive, simple, active, and fun. Each text starts with this heading: "A Neighboring Encouragement from LifeBridge." The rest of the text stays around 116 characters long, including spaces. Below is a sampling of these tips and texts. Feel free to use them.

- Start with 1—Learn 1 name, pray 1 prayer, act 1 time in love. Every 1 counts!
- Special dates are huge in neighboring. Birthdays. Anniversaries. Graduations. Learn and love!
- Try to see your neighbors as Jesus sees them. What do you see differently?
- A Plus One is anything you do for your neighbors that helps them experience the love of God.
- Take some time today to think about one idea that could bring your neighbors together. Ready. Set. Go!
- Pray for yourself today. Ask God to give you his heart for your neighbors.
- It's not all up to you. Be faithful to loving your neighbors. God will take care of the results. Trust him.
- Think about how you have been loved by others. Find a way to do that for your neighbor.

- Think about how God has loved you. How can you love your neighbor like that?
- Loving your neighbor is linked to loving God. How do you need to grow in loving God today?
- Throw a party for your neighbors this summer. If you need help planning it, we'll help: [neighboring@lbcc.org](mailto:neighboring@lbcc.org)
- Have kids? Set up a lemonade stand and work it with them. Great family time. Awesome neighbor connections.
- God put you where you live for a reason. Your unique qualities are needed in your neighborhood. Go love!
- Want to learn how to share the story of God better? Check this out: [www.gcmcollective.org/story-training](http://www.gcmcollective.org/story-training)
- Bring the backyard festivities to the front yard. It will make a huge difference.
- If your neighbor is out, go out with them. "How are you doing?" "What are you up to?" will get the ball rolling.
- See a need. Meet a need. See a need. Meet a need. See a need. Meet a need. Repeat.
- Maybe you are the answer to the prayer you are praying for your neighbor. Love is an action.
- Want some help in dreaming about how to love your neighbors? We can help: [neighboring@lbcc.org](mailto:neighboring@lbcc.org)
- Take a regular neighborhood walk with your family. Walk slowly and take time to meet and talk to neighbors.
- Neighboring is easier when you do it with friends. Who around you would be a good partner? Team up!
- Connect! Connect! Connect! Facebook. E-mail list. Phone tree. Nextdoor.com. Neighborhood newsletter. Do it!
- What do you love to do? Invite a neighbor to do it with you (camp, garden, sports, knit, cook, movies).

- Set aside a couple of meals a month to share with your neighbors. Plan it. Schedule it. Be intentional.
- LifeSports is a great way to connect with your neighbors. Get in the game! [www.lbcc.org/sports](http://www.lbcc.org/sports)
- Everyone loves receiving gifts. Find a way to bless someone through gift giving. Doesn't have to be fancy!
- Stay in the know. The more you know the more you can step into the lives of others with love.
- Love your neighbors in ways they won't ever see. Find ways to bless in secret. This matters too!
- If your neighbor makes you mad. Pray for them. If you make your neighbors mad. Stop it!
- Gospel means good news. How can your life be actual good news to your neighbors?
- Walk your dog with neighboring intentions. Walk a little slower and stop to visit with neighbors as you pass.
- LifeBridge has special events from time to time. Some of them may be awesome to invite your neighbors to.
- Want to read a great book on loving your neighbor? Get *The Art of Neighboring* by Runyon and Pathak.
- Neighboring is also about receiving. If you have a need, ask a neighbor for help. Great way to connect!
- End your conversation with neighbors like this: "And if you ever need anything, just know we're here!"
- We love our neighbors, not to make them Christians, but because we are Christians. Pure love.
- Tell your story and don't leave the faith parts out. It's part of who you are. Share confidently and with humility.
- Don't give up loving people. Sometimes love takes a long time to sink in. Keep loving people every day.

- Make yourself present in the neighborhood. Make yourself an easy person to bump into.
- Be completely you in front of your neighbors. There's no reason to put on any kind of mask. Authenticity is key.
- Be aware of nudges from God. When he nudges, listen. When you hear him, obey. God is the best neighbor!
- If someone invites you to their party, go! That means they like you. It's a good thing. Go love them!
- You may not get anything in return for all your neighbor-ing. Love your neighbors anyway.
- "Our aim under love is not to be loving to this or that person or in this or that kind of situation but to be a person possessed by love as an overall character of life."—Dallas Willard
- Somos uno: We are all one in God's eyes. This week, look at your neighbors as if you are all one. What can you invite them to do that might allow you to feel more like one?
- Food trucks are a great way to get to know those around you. Prospect hosts food trucks every Monday night 5:30–8. Invite your neighbors to the closest food trucks near you.
- A Plus One is anything you do for your neighbors that gives them a sense of good news around them. What good news can you see and share this week?
- LifeBridge is hoping to help our neighbors in Lyons affected by the flood. Is there any way you can help your neighbors with their own floods happening right now?
- "The fence that makes good neighbors needs a gate to make good friends." How can you build a gate between you and your neighbors?
- "Man's greatest blunder has been in trying to make peace with the

skies instead of making peace with his neighbors.”—Elbert Hubbard

- Jesus worked more at being interested in others than being interesting to others. This week, be interested. Join us for the Learning Community this weekend.
- Invite your neighbor to something. A great chance is this Friday for the Watoto Children’s Choir, 7:00 p.m. at LifeBridge.
- What are the key tools for good neighboring? Come share yours and we’ll share ours this weekend at the Neighboring Way of Life Learning Community.