



neighboring



September 15, 2024

But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

- Luke 10:41-42

A prayer to start...Father, as I read your word, please open my ears to hear and my heart to surrender to your purposes today.

Read the full passage in your Bible - Luke 10:38-42

Reflect

What is it from these verses that grabs your heart or elicits curiosity?

What barriers do you notice in these verses related to just being present with Jesus?

(Reflect as a individual or family-small group-friends) What are some distractions or ‘barriers’ in our lives that keep us from spending time with Jesus or from really getting to know the people around us? How can we help each other focus on what matters more, like Mary did in this story?

Pray

Turn to God and use the previous question as a springboard for prayer.

Is there a sin to confess, or something you need to give to God? Maybe something that you just need to cry out for his help?

Invite God (or continue to invite him) to give you his heart for your neighbors.

Living It Out

BARRIERS TO BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR – SELF EVALUATION

Answer the questions below. Then privately reflect on your answers and spend time in prayer.

1.) TIME: My pace of life allows me to have margin so I can be present and available to my neighbors.

**Disagree -
I'm too busy.**

1

2

3

4

5

**Agree -
I have time.**

2.) FEAR: I am comfortable and optimistic as I consider getting to know my neighbors better. I am not worried about our conversations or skeptical of my neighbors.

**Disagree -
I am fearful
and skeptical.**

1

2

3

4

5

**Agree - I am
comfortable.**

3) AGENDA: My neighbors are people, not projects. I don't love my neighbors to change them, I love my neighbors because I am loved and changed by Jesus.

**Disagree -
I secretly want
to persuade my
neighbor to my
beliefs.**

1

2

3

4

5

**Agree -
I will love my
neighbor
unconditionally
just as Jesus
did for me.**

4.) REFLECT: What is getting your attention as you look at your responses? Be curious...why do you think you answered as you did?

5.) TALK TO JESUS: As a result of this exercise, is there anything on your heart that you would like to confess to God? If so, do that now. What might God be saying to you? What do you think you are going to do about it? Spend some time in silent prayer and meditation.

Pray this each day:

Jesus, open my eyes to how I can love my neighbor today.