



## **Session 3: Making Progress**

### **Introduction**

Look at a picture of a typical house from a generation ago and a typical house today. How does this difference make neighborliness more difficult today?

### **Jesus Eats at Matthew's Home**

*Matthew 9:9-13*

Extrapolate the connotations of the phrase “tax collectors and sinners” in the ancient world.

Hospitality was different in the ancient world than today. Hospitality was shown to strangers who were traveling through, not just to best friends you've known for years. What sacrifices did Jesus (and Matthew) have to make to show and receive hospitality from/to others?

### **Application for Our Lives**

Neighboring can feel so overwhelming that many people have no idea where to start. What makes neighboring feel so overwhelming to you?

Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon suggest the following path to develop relationships with your neighbors:<sup>1</sup>

Stranger    →    Acquaintance    →    Relationship

What are all the things a person can do to move from one stage to another?

*From stranger to acquaintance ...*

*From acquaintance to relationship ....*

What are the things you like doing, and how might that be a way you can develop relationships with more of your neighbors?

## **Conclusion**

Like so many things in life, “one step at a time” and “just try something” is good advice. Often, deeper relationships happen through shared activities that may seem small in the moment, but when done consistently, have a huge impact. What is the “first step” that you can “just try” to develop relationships with your neighbors? Make a personal plan for how you can start and then make it consistent.

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<sup>1</sup> Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon, *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012), 75–81.