



Jamin Roller: The Good Samaritan Discussion Questions

Before the discussion, please watch Pastor Jamin Roller's sermon, The Good Samaritan, on [RightNow Media](#) and read [Luke 10:25-37](#).

1. What are the distinctive marks of the people of God? What does neighborly love mean to you?

2. What question does Jesus seek to answer by telling the story of the Good Samaritan? Who do you find difficult to love? How does only loving those who are lovable fail to reflect the way God has loved us in Jesus?

3. Jamin gives two definitions for what being a neighbor looks like: 1) prioritizing likeness over difference and 2) putting others before ourselves. Explain what these two definitions mean to you in your own words. As you think about God's love for you in Christ, what are some ways that you can practice these definitions this week?

4. The reality is we all have neighbors whether they live next door or are in our broader circle of influence. God has placed you in the location that He wants you for the time you are there. Our job as Christians, now more than ever, is to come around our neighbors in creative ways to show them the love of Jesus. The following are six steps to take to be a good neighbor to those who live around us.
 - Step 1: Determine who your neighbors are.
 - Step 2: Meet your neighbors.
 - Step 3: Show a creative (and safe) act of kindness.
 - Step 4: Make a connection, develop a friendship.
 - Step 5: Seek an opportunity to share the Gospel.
 - Step 6: Expand your neighborhood and repeat!

In your neighborhood, what step are you on according to this list? What steps can you take to move just one more step this week?

The Good Neighbor Initiative

The reality is we all have neighbors--whether they live next door or are in our broader circle of influence. Outreach to our neighbors can be as simple as a text or a conversation over the phone, and it could potentially develop into a lifelong friendship. God has placed you in the location that He wants you for the time you are there. Our job as Christians, now more than ever, is to come around our neighbors in creative ways to show them the love of Jesus. Join our church and challenge yourself to be the neighbor that everyone wants to live near - ***The Good Neighbor!***

Over the next six weeks, we want to encourage you to join us using 6 simple steps to be more intentional with your interactions with your neighbors. For some of your neighbors, you might already be at step 4 and for others, you will be starting at step 1. The goal is to always expand who you know in your neighborhood and to grow your relationships.

If you follow these 6 steps, we think you will make a positive impact in your neighborhood. And what's more exciting is if you encourage others in your sphere of influence to join you, the impact will be monumental.

Step 1 - Who are your neighbors?

This week you are going to think through the people who live around you. Who do you know? Is there anyone that you know well? Who don't you know? Make a list and fill it in accordingly. Whether you are on a shared driveway, neighborhood subdivision, or even in an apartment, you can do this with a little creativity. Fill in what personal information you already have on your neighbors including their names, kids and pets names (if applicable) and contact info. Do you know their occupations or hobbies?

If you already know the neighbors within a few houses, move your circle larger.

Actions of Step 1:

- Pray for great relationships with your neighbors
- Pray that God will open your heart and mind for creative ways to connect with your neighbors
- Begin creating a list of your neighbors names and contact information.

Step 2 - Meet your Neighbors

This week we are going out to meet our neighbors. For some of them, it will be a familiar face and conversation to get caught up on life. For others, it might be the first time you have ever spoken. First, start with prayer for your outing. Pray that you will have meaningful and productive talks. Pray that you have an attitude and heart of love, compassion, and service. Pray for the neighbors that you already know and for those who you are about to meet.

Review your neighborhood contact list and head out. Here is an example of a potential connection:

- Ring the doorbell and step back at least 6 feet
- Introduce yourself and where you live
- Ask how they are doing during the shelter in place and try to determine what needs they may have
- Ask how their family is doing (if applicable)
- Ask if they need anything that you could help provide
- If someone is not there, try again tomorrow and if someone is still not there, you could leave a note similar to this:

Hi Neighbor,

My name is _____ and I live at 123 Pine Street. I just wanted to check in and see how you and your family are doing during shelter in place? Is there anything I can help you with? Also, would you text me your contact info? I am collecting all of our neighbors emails and phone numbers so we can be better connected in case of an emergency or just for a general need.

- Ask what your neighbors' preferred way of communication is and if it is ok to check in with them (Phone, Text or Email)

As you collect the missing contacts and pieces of personal information, you may want to consider sharing this with the other neighbors so you can make a neighborhood emergency roster or maybe a neighborhood group text is more appropriate. Like a neighborhood HOA or watch group, having a current list of neighbors and their contact info is very helpful for everything from a cup of milk to an emergency. It also helps neighbors feel more connected. When your list is complete, print it and post it in a location where you can see it often. If you are not able to print it, make a handwritten list. Try to memorize your neighbors names and pray for each person on the list by name this week.

Actions of Step 2:

- Have a conversation with your neighbor
- Pray for each neighbor everyday this week by name.
- Fill in the final details of your neighborhood list

Step 3 - Acts of Kindness

This week we are going to email or connect with each neighbor on our newly created neighborhood list and check in with them. Reflect on what they have told you about their situation and think of ways you could bless them. Maybe you could bring over fresh baked goods. Maybe you could help wheel in their trash cans. Maybe you can pick some items up for them at the store. Maybe you could lend them a puzzle or game they might enjoy. You get the picture. Doing something simple goes a long way towards developing a friendship.

Actions of Step 3:

- Use your neighbors preferred way of communication to check in with them
- Pray for each neighbor everyday this week by name.
- Do an "Act of Kindness" for your neighbors - be creative and have fun.

Step 4 - Make a Connection

This week we want to think of a new way you can connect with your neighbor. If you have only been texting them, give them a call or vice versa. Zoom, Google Meets, and perhaps FaceTime (if you know they have an iPhone) can be a fun new way to check in. Perhaps you can offer to chat in their driveway at the appropriate distance. You might even have a chance to help your neighbor learn to become more proficient with new technology as a form of communication.

Actions of Step 4:

- Use a new way of communication to check in with your neighbors
- Pray for each neighbor everyday this week by name
- Memorize the names of your neighbors and perhaps find out more about them to continue growing your relationship

Step 5 - Spiritual Conversations

Here is where we hope to have spiritual conversation with your neighbors. The key for this to be successful, is to feel out where your relationship is with your neighbor and don't rush to this step. For some of your neighbors, it might take time to get to this step. Go by the Holy Spirit's prompting. A simple question like asking about their church background or religious experience may lead to a deeper discussion. You could also ask for ways that you can specifically pray for them that week.. If you feel the conversation is open to spiritual insights, go for it! You have been praying for this moment for some time now and it will be exciting.

Actions of Step 5:

- Check in with neighbors using their preferred way of communication
- During your conversation and if prompted by the Holy Spirit, try to dig a little deeper into their spiritual well being. See where the conversation leads you.
- Just like each of the prior steps we worked on, we are to pray for each neighbor everyday this week by name and especially if they have given you specific prayer requests

Step 6 - Next Steps

This week we are going to revise our neighborhood roster and see if you can expand it or fill in more details that you learned about them from the prior 5 steps. You are going to reevaluate where you are on each step with your neighbors and see how you can keep making steps forward. It's okay if one or more of your neighbors does not progress much past step 4. Many may stay at step 3 for quite some time.

Actions of Step 6:

- Check-in and get updated prayer requests (If applicable)
- Pray for each neighbor everyday this week by name and for any prayer requests.
- Pray that God will continue to unite your neighborhood in love.
- Pray that you will be The Good Neighbor to those who live by you.

The hope is that during this time of sheltering in place, you will begin to develop a relationship with your neighbors. Once restrictions are lessened, you can invite them over for dinner or even have a neighborhood BBQ as you continue to foster the connections you have made. As always, the end goal is to help them see the love of Jesus in you, through you and hopefully, one day, in them. As you know, this doesn't just happen on its own, it requires building a genuine relationship with a person and developing that connection over time.

Would you please share your stories with us to encourage others to get involved? Tag us @shorelinemonterey #beagoodneighbor