

Ice Breaker:

Ready for a little Neighbor Trivia? See how you fare in completing this activity.

1. Write the names of six of your current neighbors in the blanks provided (extra credit for knowing kids' names too!)
2. Place a number beside each family representing how many years they've lived there.
3. Note what occupations are represented in each family.
4. Which of your neighbors are Christians? Draw a cross next to the names.
5. Circle the names of the people who have ever been inside of *your* home.
6. Place a star beside the ones with whom you've had meaningful conversation in the past month.



Name: Bob Smith Occupation: Teacher
Years 7 +Betty * Office Assistant
+Billy
+Susan +Kayla



Name: _____ Occupation: _____



Name: _____ Occupation: _____



Name: _____ Occupation: _____



Name: _____ Occupation: _____



Name: _____ Occupation: _____



Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Group Strides part A

Develop Friendships

1. Sometimes, the longer people walk with Christ, the fewer their interactions with people living far from God. They become “cocooners” – men and women who rarely step outside of their warm, safe, comfortable Christian circles. But for other Christians, the opposite is true: over time, they experience an *increase* in their love quotient for people outside the faith, making them more a “connector”. How have you seen the cocooning pattern or the connecting pattern occur in your own life?
2. *Developing friendships* means Christ-followers stay intentional about rubbing shoulders with people far from God, with the hope of helping point them toward faith. When you notice yourself veering toward a cocooning pattern, what are some ways for you to move toward connecting again?

Discover Stories

3. In what ways can you relate to various aspects of “Super” Dave’s story? Several of them are listed below to jog our memory.
 - Negative religious experiences during adolescent years
 - Witnessed a close friend submitting their life to Christ
 - Significant loss – for Dave, it was the death of his father
 - Lengthy journey to faith in God
4. Once you make the decision to connect with people outside the faith, as Bill did with Dave, why is it so important to understand their stories before trying to engage in spiritual discussions with them?

Discern Next Steps

5. On page 97, Bill Hybels says that, “everyday, seemingly insignificant things can become divine, life-altering tools in the hands of compassionate Christ-followers.” What role did the following “everyday things” play in Dave’s journey toward God?
 - Books/tangible resources
 - Time
 - Recreational interests
6. The simple expression of a heartfelt emotion also played a pivotal role in helping Dave come to faith in Christ, How did it strike you when Bill told Dave, “I’m not going to heaven without you, Super”?

How does this comment reflect a “bottom-line value of love” toward Dave?

Have you ever felt this way toward someone in your own life? If so, did you tell them about it? Why or why not?

Group Strides, Part B

7. Think about one of your “Brians.” What stage of living in 3D do you think you’re in with this person right now Place your “Brian’s” name in the top blank, and check the box below that corresponds to the stage of 3D living that you’re presently experiencing with this person. Then jot down a few thoughts in response to that item’s follow-up question.

My “Brian”: _____

- Develop friendships-We’re just now establishing common ground.
How can I continue to practice a “bottom-line value of love” toward this person, regardless if they ever make a faith decision or not?
- Discover stories – I’m in the process of unearthing his or her life’s story.
What is one question I could ask to understand their life’s journey better?
- Discern next steps – I’ve taken a few steps to help this person find faith in God.
What resources is God prompting me to provide for this person such as a book or a CD, a listening ear, or a few hours engaged in a shared recreational activity?