



NEIGHBORS & NATIONS

Week 2

BREAKING THE ICE

- What is the nicest thing a neighbor has ever done for you?
- Have you ever found yourself in a hurry, but felt a strong urge to help someone in need? What was that experience like for you?

MAIN CONTENT

In week two of the Neighbors & Nations series, Pastor Kevin shed light on the teachings of Jesus that emphasize loving God by loving others.

He shared a story from his own life about preaching at a house church in Lima, Peru when a woman told him that he was the one she felt God had chosen to tell her husband about Christ. It was through an act of faith, a phone call and a series of meetings over coffee and lunch, that the husband finally decided to accept Christ. He then related that story to the story of the Good Samaritan who sees a man who was badly beaten within inches of his life and takes time to help the injured man. (Luke 10:25-37)

These stories offer great examples of demonstrating compassion and love to others in difficult circumstances.

1. What does the Good Samaritan story teach us about loving our neighbors?
2. Share about a time you felt torn between helping someone and moving on with your day.

The story also shows that being a good neighbor goes beyond culture or background. It emphasizes the importance of showing love to anyone in need, even if they are different from us. It helps us see that following religious rules alone does not fulfill our duty to love and care for others. To follow Christ involves showing practical expressions of compassion and mercy that go beyond mere religious practices or cultural boundaries.

3. In the parable, the priest and the Levite pass by a wounded man. What might this teach us about religious practices and compassion?
4. You may not always come across someone who is beaten up or injured, but what are some other ways people in our context are “beat up” by life?

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus calls us to look past our cultural, social, or religious differences and respond to human suffering with empathy and kindness. In our daily lives, we are challenged to do this by seeking opportunities to help and support others, regardless of their background. It can be more difficult at times than we imagined, but Jesus calls us to be a neighbor by showing mercy in this way.

5. How can we be like the Good Samaritan in our daily lives, especially in a world with diverse cultures and beliefs?

When we think of who a neighbor is to us today, they might be someone we encounter online, a coworker or a stranger in our community. Whoever our neighbor might be, acting as a Good Samaritan involves being alert to the needs of those around us, practicing empathy, and taking tangible steps to see and care for others.

6. What are some modern examples of “neighbors” in your life? How can you be a Good Samaritan to them?
7. Have you found it challenging or easy to be a neighbor to folks who are different (culturally, politically, religiously, etc.)? Share an example.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, please grant us the wisdom to recognize the needs of those around us and the courage to respond with love and kindness. Help us to break down the barriers that divide us and to see each person as our neighbor, deserving of our care. May our actions speak louder than our words, as we seek to serve and uplift those in need. Bless us with open hearts and willing hands to make a difference in the lives of others. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

- Pray and ask God to reveal ways for you to love and serve your neighbors.
- Grab your campus food list to help our neighbors suffering from food insecurity and fulfill that list/bring in the food to your campus by Sunday, November 19: crosspoint.tv/dogood. (Online has an Amazon Wish List, too!)