

**July 31 | Sunday**  
**Next Door: The Art of Neighboring**  
Read [Luke 10:25-28](#)



**01 | Mon – The most important two** | Read [Matthew 22:35-40](#)

When asked which commandment was the greatest, Jesus chose not one but two (Deuteronomy 6:4 and Leviticus 19:18) saying that all the others depended on these. Why do you think He chose these particular commands? Do you find it easier to love God or to love people? What could you do today to act on these two important directives?

**02 | Tue – And who *is* my neighbor?** | Read [Luke 10:25-32](#)

A lawyer came looking for eternal life. Jesus asked him how he understood the law and he got it right...love God, love your neighbor. But wanting to justify himself (because maybe he wasn't living up to the law?) he asked Jesus to define "neighbor." This man knew the words but didn't know how to apply them. Have you found yourself in this position, knowing the truth about loving others but finding it difficult to put into practice?

**03 | Wed – The most unlikely neighbor** | Read [Luke 10:33-37](#)

We often think this familiar story is about responding to people in crisis but that might be missing the point. The first two passersby were his own religious leaders but neither stopped. It was a despised Samaritan who saved his life. Accepting help from others when needed can be humbling but it often opens the door to relationship. Is there a 'Samaritan' in your life that you have been avoiding?

**04 | Thu – More than just a zipcode** | Read [Jeremiah 29:4-7](#)

In 597 B.C., Babylon took many Hebrews into exile. The prophet Jeremiah wrote a letter, telling them to settle down and prepare for a long stay. He urged them to be good neighbors while they waited. Do you believe that God has placed you at your address for this time so you can bless your neighbors and be blessed by them? How could you do that today?

**05 | Fri – Words and actions make a difference** | Read [Romans 13:8-10 and 14:10-13](#)

Paul sent this letter to the Roman house churches. Some were mostly Jewish; others were mostly Gentiles. Their customs were varied so it was easy to judgemental. But Paul said God calls us to a standard that goes beyond commandments or laws. What actions and attitudes build others up in your neighborhood, your job, your church? Identify one or two attitudes or actions that you are having difficulty with. Ask the Holy Spirit for help.

**06 | Sat – Why and how** | Read [Colossians 3:12-14 and Ephesians 2:19-22](#)

These verses in Colossians give a practical description of how to live a life of loving others. The verses in Ephesians explain why we are called to do this. You are more than just an ordinary person; you belong to God's family. You are part of something bigger than yourself and called to a higher purpose. Loving your neighbor is an expression of that purpose. Idea: for the next 3 days, do something unexpected for someone who least deserves it.

**August 7 | Sun – Next Door: The Art of Neighboring, Part 2**