



THE LIVING SENT PODCAST: SHOW NOTES

EPISODE: **006**

TITLE: **Inviting Jesus into Your Neighborhood- Neighbor People Like Jesus**

“As Christ followers, we must see that God has called us to embody the gospel on the very street where we live and among the very people we call neighbors. Loving your neighbors begins with this understanding: You have been sent to live in such a way that makes the kingdom of God tangible in your neighborhood.”

How can YOU make and intentional effort to Neighbor People Like Jesus this week?

1. **Begin Praying for Your Neighbors (*strategically*)**

- a. You may pray for your neighbors *occasionally* but do you pray for your neighbors *strategically*? Prayer is your highest calling and greatest privilege so let’s bring a new level of intentionality into our prayers specifically for our neighbors.
- b. There are a number of ways to pray strategically for your neighbors but I shared a great tool in the episode called, Bless Every Home. You can check it out here: <https://blesseveryhome.com>
 - i. In addition to creating a plan for praying for your neighbors, I wanted to give you a great resource you could use to help you “pray on mission.” This resource comes from a church called Matthew’s Table and is a free prayer guide they adapted from Neil Cole. [Download it here.](#)

2. **Learn Your Neighbors Names (*and use them*)**

- a. If you had to write down the names of your closest neighbors, could you do it? How many would you get? Interestingly enough, this is the exact test pastors Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon have been asking people for years. In their book, The Art of Neighboring, Pathak and Runyon state that only 10% of people can write down the names of all their neighbors! They have created a simple tool to help you learn and retain your neighbors’ names. They call it the “Block Map” and you can download it for free [right here.](#)
 - i. Questions: How many neighbors can you name? Do you know anymore about them? What is holding you back from knocking on their door and introducing (or reintroducing) yourself to them *today*?



3. Experiment with Hospitality (*this week*)

- a. Hospitality comes from two words in the Greek Language: *Philos* one of the Greek words for “love” and *Xenos* the Greek word for “stranger.” Thus, hospitality carries the idea of love for the stranger or “welcoming the stranger.”
 - i. Questions: How do you typically think about hospitality? In terms of entertaining guests or creating a space of “welcome?”
- b. What excuses do you find yourself making as to why you won't open your home? *My house is too small? My house is too messy? Something else?*
 - i. Question: I shared a quote from Roger Gehring, who stated that first century Palestinian homes were *really small* compared to the homes being built today.¹ How does the first century church's openness to hospitality challenge you to do the same in your neighborhood?

With each intentional act of love, you're creating possibilities for community to blossom, for relationships to be restored, and for the gospel to be shared and experienced. That is good news for your neighborhood and for our broken and hurting world.

I'd love to hear from you this week. Reach out to me at justinwester.com/connect. Remember, you don't *have* to Live SENT, you get to. See you next episode.

Justin

¹ Roger Gehring, *House Church and Mission: The Importance of Household Structures in Early Christianity*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2004), 45.