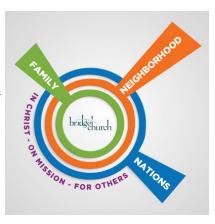
Discussion Guide | Sunday, Jan 15, 2017

God's Heart, My Hood

Family - Neighborhood - Nations

- → Vital areas of concern for followers of Christ.
- → Areas of priority for our prayers & acts of faith.
- → Areas that tell us something about God's heart.



Intro:

>> Describe the best or the worst neighbor you've ever had? If asked, how would your neighbors describe you?

God's heart: That we live life <u>IN CHRIST</u>- <u>ON MISSION</u>- <u>FOR OTHERS</u>. Ephesians 2:8-13 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 2:3-4, 2 Corinthians 5:15

>> God's heart is to have a RELATIONSHIP with you and to use you for His PURPOSES. Someone in the group tell about when they began a relationship with God. Someone tell about a time when God used them for His purpose.

God's Heart & Directions for Neighborhoods:

- → <u>SALVATION</u> so we <u>WITNESS</u>. 2 Peter 3:9, Acts 1:8
- → <u>GLORIFY GOD</u> so we <u>SHINE</u>. Matthew 5:16
- → JUSTICE / MERCY so we LOVE. Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 22:37-39

>> What are some opportunities we may have with those close to us to talk about salvation? What about to shine through good deeds? What about to love by showing mercy?

>> What are some real life examples that you've seen or heard of, of people demonstrating God's heart by witnessing, shining, loving others?

God's Heart, MY HOOD:

- 1. *Do you KNOW them?* Complete the Neighborhood Block Map. Fill in the neighbors you don't know this week.
- 2. *Do you have TIME*? Does your pace allow you to be present with those near you? Ask God to arrange your priorities so that you can witness, shine, and love others as He desires.
- 3. *How can you SERVE*? Discuss ways that you can serve those near you. Is there a neighbor or coworker that you feel God calling you to spend more time with?

Diagnostic Questions for Neighboring Well

Would anyone care if you put a for sale sign in your yard?

- 1. Are you a character in the story of your neighborhood? Would others truly consider you a character in the story of your place?
- 2. Is your home a fortress from life or a hub for life? A hub for ministry or a refuge from ministry?
- 3. How many people enter your house in the course of a month? How many of those people don't know Jesus?
- 4. lingering is a sign others are comfortable enough to stay when everyone else has gone. How many people have lingered in your home this month?
- 5. You know people are getting comfortable with you when they start to inconvenience you. How many last-minute favors have friends and neighbors asked of you this month?
- 6. How many meals have you shared with people far from the church this month?
- 7. How many unexpected opportunities have you seized for the sake of embodying and proclaiming the gospel?

from the book Staying is the New Going: Choosing to Love Where God Places You by Alan Briggs.

Also, check out the site <u>http://www.artofneighboring.com/</u> for resources.