

Session 2

The Distance Between Us
week starting March 5



OPENING PRAYER

Open with the Prayer for Neighbors found at sov.church/neighboring.

OPENER (CHOOSE ONE)

- Tell about a fear you overcame.
- What's something you keep putting off until you have more time?

If there is anyone new to the group, do introductions, and share the group covenant, schedule, logistics, and expectations.

REFLECT ON SUNDAY'S SERMON

- What stood out or inspired you from the message this week?
- Do you have questions? What did you learn?

VIDEO

Optional View Sessions 2 and 3 from the 6-week study at artofneighboring.com/resources.

READ & DISCUSS

Last week we looked at the Parable of the Good Samaritan from the angle of what it means to be a neighbor. This week let's zoom in and learn more about barriers and bridging the gaps that distance us from our neighbors. These gaps may be physical, relational, or political. They may be assumptions we make, time constraints, or even our own fears.

1. Read Luke 10:30–37. What barriers or gaps do you see in this parable? What do you learn from the Samaritan's example?
2. Read Luke 5:27–32. What gaps does Jesus bridge? What does Jesus' example teach us about why we should bridge gaps with others?
3. What are some reasons people may fear their neighbors? What fears or concerns do you have about any of your neighbors? Do you think anyone is uncomfortable with you?
4. Discuss the following myths and how they impact you.
 - I'm busy. Things will settle down someday.
 - More will be enough.
 - Everybody lives like this.
5. How can you address any barriers that keep you from better knowing your neighbors?

LIVE IT OUT

1. What Live It Out neighboring step did you take this past week? How did it go?
2. Discuss your Block Maps. Are the neighbors identified on your map a stranger, acquaintance, or relationship? Share any progress you've made since last week.
3. Share one small "next step" you sense God calling you to take this week. Find ideas at sov.church/neighboring. Be ready to report back at your next meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help us to recognize the barriers that keep us from knowing and serving our neighbors. Help us to confront the busyness of our lives, and make room in our schedules to get to know our neighbors. Give us insight to identify our hesitations, and courage to face our fears and take steps to "bridge the gaps" that exist between us and our neighbors. Amen.

RESOURCES

- Visit sov.church/neighboring for resources and practical ways to reach out to neighbors.
- Find block maps, videos and additional discussion questions at artofneighboring.com/resources.
- Want to dig deeper? Read and discuss *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon.