

Session 3

Motives

week starting March 12



OPENING PRAYER

Open with your own prayer, or the Prayer for Neighbors found at sov.church/neighboring.

OPENER (CHOOSE ONE)

- Tell about a time you felt a friend was trying to “sell” or use you.
- What’s your favorite love song? What do you like about it?

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 the Session 4 video from the 6-week study at artofneighboring.com/resources.

READ & DISCUSS

If we are loving people just to convert them, then we are making them into a project. Nobody wants to be someone else’s project. Most of us don’t consider ourselves to be pushy or “salesy,” and we don’t want others to perceive us as such, especially when we say anything about our faith. How can we love others and effectively share our love for Jesus with the right motives?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–7. What does Paul say love is? What does Paul say love is not? Choose one of the qualities of love and share how it might be displayed in a practical way toward a neighbor.
2. Respond to 1 Peter 1:22. What enables us to love others sincerely? What does deep, sincere love look like, and how can you tell the difference between love that’s sincere or not? When have you experienced sincere love?
3. When people are in relationship with others, they naturally share what they love. What do you love, and how can (or do) you share it with others?
4. “Sharing the story of Jesus and his impact on our lives is the right motive, but it cannot be an ulterior motive in developing relationships. We don’t love our neighbors to convert them; we love our neighbors because we are converted” (*Art of Neighboring*, p. 102). Discuss the tension in this quote. How can we love our neighbors without needing to convert them, while ultimately hoping that Jesus does use us to bring them closer to Him?
5. How can you share your faith in a way that feels natural to you? Try to be specific.

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. Share any progress you've made since last week. Are any relationships moving from stranger to acquaintance, or acquaintance to a relationship?
3. Do you have any stories to share?
4. 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

Thank you Jesus, for perfectly loving us, and for demonstrating to us how to love. Help us to better follow your example of loving others unconditionally, and show us practical ways to do that. We pray specifically for opportunities with the following neighbors (Invite group members each to say the name of one of their 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.