

Session 5

The Art of Receiving
week starting March 26



OPENING PRAYER

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

OPENER (CHOOSE ONE)

- Which are you better at, giving or receiving? Why?
- Tell about a time you needed and received help from someone. How did it feel?

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

READ & DISCUSS

As you think about neighboring, you've probably had ideas about what you can do to be a better neighbor. Hopefully you've even taken steps to act on some of them. This is great! Now it's time to think about receiving. Healthy relationships involve reciprocity—a willingness to not only give, but also to receive. If we are good givers but won't receive, a relationship feels one-sided, and the other may feel more like a project than a participant in the relationship. When giving goes two ways, both feel a sense of worth and dignity.

1. Read Luke 7:36–50. What reasons might the sinful woman have had for her actions? What reasons would someone have to reject her anointing?
2. Although there may have been many reasons to reject the woman's anointing, Jesus received it. What does this show us about humility and vulnerability?
3. "The art of receiving is not complicated. It comes down to being aware of our own needs. It's about opening our eyes, then being vulnerable enough to ask and receive" (*The Art of Neighboring*, p 128). What current needs do you have that someone else may be able to help you with?
4. In what areas are your neighbors knowledgeable, passionate or accomplished? Is there anything you could ask or learn from any of them?
5. Have you seen or been part of any collaborative efforts where you live? Could you enlist others to help with a neighborhood or outreach project? What?

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. 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

Jesus, thank you for the reminder that receiving from others blesses us both. Help us to be humble and vulnerable, open to receiving help from others. May we see our own needs as opportunities to reach out and ask for help. We pray specifically for opportunities with the following neighbors (invite group members each to offer a specific request). 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.