

## A Cheatsheet to Being Neighbourly

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**Quick Note:** This is a devotional based on Reggie Joiner's book "Zombies, Football and the Gospel." In chapter two, "Welcome to 98118," Reggie gives a few tips on what it means to be neighbourly. This deviation is an adaptation of those tips for our current world. These are not my ideas, but rather my take on what Reggie wrote in the book. Please feel free to use this resource, but take time to explain the above to those you're teaching.

### INTRODUCTION

When Jesus was asked what the most important law was in Luke 10:25-37, He responded, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind*"; and, "*Love your neighbor as yourself*."

The next question was, "*And who is my neighbour?*" The answer is anyone who is different from you. That's why Jesus shares the story of the Good Samaritan; He is driving home this point. However, the natural question is, how do I love my neighbour?

Here are five tips for being more neighbourly and loving those around you.

### SNAPSHOT

1. **BE** - who you are
2. **DON'T** - change who they are
3. **DECIDE** - to be friends first
4. **RESPECT** - their ideas
5. **HAVE** - fun liking them

### BREAKDOWN

- **BE - Be who you are** in all the spaces you occupy. Those spaces could be your school or in your home but also in the digital spaces you live in online. If you follow Jesus, then do so, the goal is not to blend in or to offend. The goal is to seek authenticity in all you do and where ever you go.
- **DON'T - Don't change who they are** either. Jesus doesn't call you to change your neighbour. You're calling is to love your neighbour as yourself. So if your goal is to be who you are and live an authentic life. Then you are called to allow others to be who they are as well.
- **DECIDE - Decide to be friends first.** Friendship is the goal, not conversion. It's not your job to convert anyone. People are not projects to be checked off; they are people to be loved.
- **RESPECT - Respect their ideas** because you're not the smartest person in the room. You don't know everything, and probably won't ever know everything. The question in every conversation should be, what's something new I can learn from this person?
- **HAVE - Have fun liking them** because this is a journey and you should enjoy it. Try new food, ask lots of questions, embrace the journey, and remember that you have been given permission not just to love those who are different from you but also like them.

### QUESTIONS TO DIVE DEEPER

- What does it look like to be a neighbour in your digital world?
- How can you keep people, people and not projects?
- What can you learn from people in your life who are different from you? Try to be specific?
- Why is it hard to just be ourselves? What holds us back?

