

faith. If Levi, a despised Tax Collector is worthy of Jesus' attention, acceptance and call to ministry, then pretty much anyone can rise to Christ call upon his or her life.

However, many people cannot see how God's grace extends to certain people. Are there some people that you have to work extra hard to accept? Write your thoughts here and look for God's guidance so as to match your acceptance of others with God's grace.

Wednesday, September 30

Look over what names you have in your boxes and the information that you know about your neighbors. Do you have anything in common with them? Are there topics or activities through which you might be able to relate to your neighbors? If so, you are already on your way to moving from strangers to acquaintances to a relationship with your neighbors! List those commonalities and activities through which you can relate to your neighbors.

Thursday, October 1

Read Luke 10:38-42. This passage of scripture is all about the depth of our faith in God through Jesus Christ. Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet a listen to all he had to say. She chose "the better part." What do you do to deepen your faith? Bible Study? Regular worship – both public and private? Daily devotions? Write your thoughts here and ask God to guide you to a deeper understanding of grace and your relationship with God.

Friday, October 2

The message this previous Sunday ended with an illustration about Cal Ripken Jr. He was celebrated for showing up! He was a solid player but what he will be remembered for is getting up each day he supposed to and going to work. Becoming a great neighbor is not a sprint; it is a marathon. Taking "Baby Steps" each and every day will get you closer to doing the work God desires of us – for a better neighborhood, church and world! What are the steps you can take to become a better neighbor? Write your thoughts here and begin to build relationships for God's Kingdom on earth!

Message Notes – September 27, 2020

The Art of Neighboring: Deep and Wide *

- I. The concepts behind the song *Deep and Wide* range from the very nature of _____ – who is love that is both deep and wide to the _____ we experience from knowing our God through Jesus Christ.
 - A. We may even consider the sacrifice made by Jesus that touches the depth of our _____ and its width indicates that Christ's salvation and wholeness is for _____.
 - B. I want to repeat the questions I asked last week. What if we took Jesus' words _____? What if we tried to understand them in a _____ way? What if we – dare I say it? – took Jesus' words _____ and attempted to love our neighbors?
 - C. That is the _____ of this two-part series of messages on *The Art of Neighboring*.
 1. The premise of this book is that if we take Jesus' Great Commandment seriously, practically, literally – then our neighbor hoods would be better places leading to better _____, better, states and countries and even a better _____.
 2. In order to be better neighbors our _____ needs to be deep and wide.
- II. Levi was a Tax Collector and that alone was enough for the Pharisees to question Jesus' _____ about being near Levi let alone ask Levi to follow him.
 - A. But that's just the thing about Jesus; he's not _____ Levi in this story.

*Luke 5:27-32 and 10:38-42

- B. Jesus not only calls Levi to follow him, Levi leaves everything behind and Jesus actually follow's Levi to his home where a bunch of Levi's friends join them for a _____.
1. When Jesus is challenged by the Pharisees and Scribes, Jesus answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the _____ but _____ to repentance."
 2. This is the width of God's _____ and _____.
- C. According to the Authors of *The Art of Neighboring* our call to be better neighbors involves _____ from Strangers to Acquaintances to Relationships.

- III. Jesus also _____ us to go deep. To learn that lesson we turn to the second reading from Luke's gospel; the story of Jesus' visit to the home Mary and Martha.
- A. This is also a very _____ story.
 - B. Jesus tells Martha, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and _____ by many things; there is need of only one thing."
 - C. In other words, we need to sometimes _____ on the depth of our relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - D. Here's a thought: both the width and depth of our attempts to live the great commandment takes time, _____, intentionality and patience. It's all about baby steps and moving consistently and steadily toward the _____ of becoming a great neighbor.

Daily Meditations and Study Guide

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, September 28

Last week, our members and friends were asked to take up a challenge by filling in the squares in the picture below. The picture represents

your home and the eight neighbors bordering your property. On the top line write the name or names of the people who live in that house. On the second line write some relevant information about each person – something you can simply observe from your driveway; their jobs, hobbies, where they grew up – simple facts about them. The third line is the most challenging; write some in-depth information you would know after connecting with people. Maybe their career goals, motivations for being in different organizations, perhaps their fears or even what they might have shared about their beliefs or God. How are you doing with this task? Go ahead and see if you can get any further in filling out the squares.

a.	a.	a.
b.	b.	b.
c.	c.	c.
a.		a.
b.		b.
c.		c.
a.	a.	a.
b.	b.	b.
c.	c.	c.

Tuesday, September 29

Read Luke 5:27-32. This story represents the width of our task of becoming better neighbors. No one is beyond the width of God's love and we should be prepared to accept others into our family of