

Love Where You Live

“Love Where You Live – Part 1” – Luke 10:25-37

April 19, 2020

19 Days to Love Where You Live

For the next 19 days, I will...

- (1) Pray daily for my neighbors using the prayer guide found at <https://www.katyprays.org/love-where-you-live-2020>.
- (2) Follow the leading of God’s Spirit one prompting at a time to conduct acts of kindness and love toward my neighbors.

Learning from Jesus About How to Love Where You Live from Luke 10:25-37

1. Loving my neighbor starts with loving God (vv.25-29)

- The conversation about loving our neighbor starts with the Great Commandment. Loving our neighbor flows out of loving God first.
- At first blush, it seems like Jesus is saying that we get eternal life by loving God and loving neighbor. However, v. 29 makes it clear that this is not the case.
- “justify” = *dikaioo* = declare righteous; declare innocent
- **Romans 3:20-25** – *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood.*
- Conclude: Loving my neighbor begins by dealing with my sin problem through belief and faith in Jesus Christ to justify me – to make me right with God. This faith empowers me then to love God with all my heart and to love my neighbor.
- Application #1 – Following the proper biblical order, I will seek to love God first by...

- Receiving Jesus into my life – receiving His declaration of my being right with God through His death and resurrection;
- Expressing my affection to God through worship;
- Talking to God as a Father and a Friend;
- Seeking Him first in my life and my decisions (Matthew 6:33; 1 Samuel 23:2,4; Joshua 9:14).

2. Loving my neighbor involves caring enough to stop and get involved (vv.30-34)

- The Good Samaritan cared enough to stop and get involved. The priest and Levite did not.
- Three obstacles you must overcome in order to stop and get involved with your neighbor:
 - (1) Pride – The priest and Levite were too prideful to stop and get involved with their neighbor.
 - (2) **Busyness** – The priest and Levite were too busy to stop and get involved with their neighbor.
 - (3) Fear – The priest and Levite were too afraid to stop and get involved with their neighbor.
- State Farm Study: “Only **25%** of Americans know the name of their next-door neighbors.” (Forbes, 10-12-2014)
- Trulia Survey: “Of those who know their neighbors’ names, **80%** like their neighbors.” (Forbes, 10-24-2013)
- The Roseto Effect (Amer. Journal of Public Health, Aug 1992)
- Application #2 – Twenty ideas for expressing kindness and love toward my neighbors during this season of the Coronavirus:
 1. **Pray.** Pray for my neighbors by name every day for the next 19 days (April 19 – May 7) using the prayer guide found at <https://www.katyprays.org/love-where-you-live-2020>.
 2. **Lawn Party.** Throw a social distancing lawn party by sitting in lawn chairs on your driveway (6 feet apart) and just visiting.
 3. **Next Door App.** Join your neighborhood Next Door App or a neighborhood Facebook group and participate.
 4. **Care Package.** Create a care package and deliver to your neighbors. Care package might include toilet paper, face masks, microwave popcorn, bath bomb, Max Lucado’s book “Anxious for Nothing,” and a note. Make sure everything is sanitized and sealed and explain in your note that you did so.
 5. **Involve your kids.** Get your kids to make notes of encouragement to your neighbors. Put them in a zip locked bag and deliver to your neighbors’ front door.

6. **Online Book Club.** Host an online book club with your neighbors reading a book together and then discussing via Zoom.
7. **Gift Cards.** Give restaurant gift cards to each of your neighbors with a nice note attached.
8. **Grocery Store Run.** Offer to go to the grocery store for an elderly neighbor.
9. **Pay Anyway.** Even if they are not able to provide the service, pay your hair stylist or yard person or house cleaner anyway.
10. **Pet Walk.** Offer to walk your elderly neighbor's dog.
11. **Play in Your Front Yard.** Throw the football or baseball with your kids in your front yard and watch spontaneous conversations happen with neighbors.
12. **Positive Social Media.** Spread hope through social media. Stop spreading fear-filled posts. Start a movement of #FillYourFeedWithHope
13. **Lawn Movie Party.** Host a neighborhood movie watching party (6 feet apart) in your driveway with a projector on a sheet. Pick a wholesome movie.
14. **Write a Letter.** Write an old-fashioned snail mail letter to a friend or loved one who needs an encouraging word.
15. **Offer to Help.** Post this note on the front door of all of your neighbors:



16. **Golden Rule.** Practice things that you want others to practice. Wash your hands. Don't hoard food or toilet paper or Clorox wipes. Practice social distancing.
17. **Celebrate Heroes.** Celebrate a neighbor who is in the medical profession or grocery industry with a sign and balloons in their yard.

18. **Donate Blood.** Nationwide there is a blood shortage. Research how you can give by appointment at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>
19. **Ask God.** Ask the Lord to give you His specific, Hand-tailored idea for ministering to your neighbors. Then, follow His lead.
20. **Share the Good News.** With gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15) and with "graciousness, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:5-6) share your faith as the Lord leads. The Lord might lead you to build relationship for an entire year before you share your faith. Follow His lead (Acts 1:8).

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National Day of Prayer – 19 days leads us to the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7. Our WH-Katy NDP worship and prayer service will be posted on <https://www.katyprays.org/live-stream> for you and your family to participate in ANY TIME that day you choose.

Share Your Stories With Your Church Family – We would love to encourage one another by hearing each others' stories of ideas for loving our neighbors. Please send your stories to us at coronastories@whatisgrace.org

Postscript – While reaching out to your neighbors, be sure to practice good self-care (v.35).