

THE ART OF NEIGHBORING

TALK IT OVER

The Power for Neighboring

The Art of Neighboring - Week 3

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August 29, 2025

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions toward the end of the document.

Scriptures

Acts 1:8, Acts 4:1-4, Acts 4:7, Acts 4:13, Acts 4:18-20, Acts 4:29-34, Mark 3:8, 1 Peter 3:15, Psalm 119:9, Romans 1:16, Romans 8:9-11, Zechariah 4:6, Philippians 4:13, 1 Corinthians 6:14, 2 Corinthians 4:14, Ephesians 1:18-20, Isaiah 55:11, Matthew 4:4, Hebrews 4:12

Questions:

1. God gives extraordinary power to ordinary people to accomplish his purposes. God's power will not be contained or confined. Do you truly believe this? Do you ever feel like you are using all your power but going nowhere? What source do you turn to when you lack power?
2. Read Acts 3:6 and 4:19-20. 1 Peter 3: 15 (NIV) says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." Why do you think God wants you to speak about your story? What are big and small ways that God has worked in your life? (e.g. How has Jesus calmed your fears? Met your needs? Done miracles in your life?)
3. Acts 4:29-30 (NIV) says, "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." How have you experienced transformation or clarity through the Bible? See Isaiah 55:11, Matthew 4:4, Hebrews 4:12. Why is it important to stay connected to God through his word?
4. Acts 1: 8 (NIV) says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Zechariah 4:5 says (NIV), "'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,'" says the LORD Almighty. The Holy Spirit empowers us to share with our neighbors. How do you invite

him into the process to guide you? Describe a time when you relied on the Holy Spirit to comfort, pray, or witness to another person.

5. Acts 4:33 (NIV) says, "With great power they continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." No other religion tells the story of a person defeating death. How does the story of the resurrection give people hope and courage to share boldly about Jesus?
6. Our personal stories are powerful testimonies. What part of your story will you share with the people around you (e.g. small group, neighbors, co-workers)?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps

1. Consider taking the Group Health Assessment in your small group. This assessment will help you see how your small group is balancing the five purposes and will give you suggested next steps for each purpose. Click here to take the Group Health Assessment: <https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups#spiritualCheckup>
2. Did you know that Saddleback produces many new small group studies each year? Visit <https://saddleback.com/studies> to check out Saddleback's ever-growing library of small group curricula.