

Defeating Fear
Neighboring: Taking the Great Commandment Literally
April 26, 2020

Neighboring... our church is participating with **thousands of other churches across the country during this crisis to demonstrate the love and hope of Jesus in tangible ways.** This is the time for us to *Be the Church* as we actively live out the Great Commandment to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Now is the time to take Jesus' Great Commandment Literally

Today people are struggling with fear and uncertainty in ways they may never have before. The power and genius of The Great Commandment is that it's so simple and yet extremely powerful when acted on. The most effective thing that we can do collectively to impact our city is to actually live out Jesus' command to love our neighbors. God is at work in the midst of this pandemic and He is inviting us to join Him in practical and tangible ways right in our neighborhood.

Good neighbors doing good deeds lead to goodwill, which opens the door for the Good News.

How are your neighbors experiencing your good works?

Acts 17.26-27: *"From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us."*

We don't live where we live by accident.

Love God - Love Others - Love Where We Live - No Limits!

"We make our friends; we make our enemies; but God makes our next door neighbor." --G.K. Chesterton

Matthew 5.14-16: *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. It gives light to everyone in the house. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Jesus calls us to shine forth the Light by engaging in good works. "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does." --Martin Luther

"What often keeps us from loving our neighbors is fear of what will happen if we do. Frankly, what scares me more is thinking about what will happen if we don't." --Bob Goff

Dozen Door Challenge

<https://www.lindenroad.church/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/dozen-door.pdf>

Take time with those in your home to reflect on the people who live in the 12 houses or apartments closest to you. How many names do you know from these households? If you have children in your home, be sure to include them in this activity.

Write the names of the neighbors you know on the Dozen Door Challenge pdf. Who do you not yet know?

Richland Gives - Global Day of Giving - May 5
www.richlandgives.org