**Growth Group Bible Study**

Neighboring: Barriers & Benefits

April 22, 2018

**\*\***Don’t forget to have your group fill out the questionnaire about the Newsletter\*\*

**Reading** Romans 13:8-10

**Opening Questions**

1. Have you thought much about getting to know the names of the neighbors closest to you? How are you doing at that?

2. Have your neighbors ever been a help to you? In what ways?

3. On a scale of 1-10, how busy is your life right now?

**Study**

1. What do you think Paul means in Romans 13:8 that “he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law?” How are the Ten Commandments fulfilled as we love our neighbors?

2. Why do you think we naturally think that “loving our neighbor” applies to random people we meet in the world, instead of loving our literal neighbors?

3. Would you consider yourself introverted? How is being introverted a natural barrier to initiating a friendship with our neighbors? How might you be able to remain true to yourself as an introvert, and yet still initiate a friendship with your neighbors?

4. Have you ever thought about moving more of your life to the front yard? What benefits could this have?

5. Do you have time in your life to invest in your neighbors? Why not? What are some ways you could invite your neighbors into activities that you already are doing?

6. In what ways did Jesus live a life open to interruptions? How do you think you could demonstrate a demeanor of “it’s ok to interrupt me” to your neighbors?

7. Are you afraid of knowing your neighbors or of them knowing you? Are any of these fears reason enough to not know your neighbors? How does 2 Tim. 2:7 speak to this?

8. How comfortable are you with awkwardness? Why is this important to neighboring well?

9. Read 2 Cor. 3:5. How does this apply to overcoming our fear and neighboring well?

10. Why is it bad to think of neighboring as a one-way street where we bless our neighbors and we receive nothing? What type of help do our neighbors provide us?

11. Would you consider any of your neighbors actual friends? Is it OK to be friends with people who may be far from God?

12. How does loving our neighbors lead to natural conversations about Jesus? Do you think that people are more likely to respond to a friend who loves Jesus, or a stranger knocking on the door?

13. Have you thought about inviting a neighbor over for a meal yet? What plans do you have to do so in the near future?