**Growth Group Bible Study**

Neighboring: We Can Do this Church

April 29, 2018

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

**Reading** Luke 5:27-32

**Opening Questions**

1. Have you ever had a hard experience with a neighbor (e.g. a conflict, issues of influence on your kids, barking dog, etc.)? How did you handle that?

2. Are you uncomfortable about spending time with anyone on your block? Anyone you would feel strange being seen with? Why?

3. Are there neighbors that might be “scared” or “suspect” of you? Why?

4. Have you learned any new neighbor names these past two weeks?

**Study**

1. What makes Jesus’ call of Levi (Matthew) so remarkable (Luke 5:27) and why is Levi’s response so remarkable (Luke 5:28)?

2. Read Matt. 9:10 and Mark 2:15 with Luke 5:29. Whom did Matthew have over to meet Jesus and why is this group significant to Jesus’ mission in Luke 5:31-32?

3. How does the response of the religious leaders in Luke 5:30 parallel how we can respond to the types of neighbors around us? Why is that a barrier to “neighboring”?

4. What is so significant to us when Jesus shares the message of why He came (Luke 5:31-32 with 15:1-2 and 19:7)?

5. Read 2 Cor. 5:20. What is the ultimate motivation in our “neighboring”?

6. What can be perceived as “ulterior” motives in neighboring that can actually undermine or harm our witness for Jesus?

7. What has worked best for you in talking to your neighbors about Jesus (e.g. your personal testimony, acts of service, invitation to church, listening to their story or…)?

8. How much should our “neighboring” be affected by what we serve at a meal, how nice our house is or how clean it is? Why can these things “get in the way” of “neighboring”?

9. What should be the balance in being responsible to our neighbors and being responsible for our neighbors? How do we find that “balance”?

**Application**

1. Keep at getting to know the names of your neighbors.

2. Plan now for inviting one non-churched neighbor over for a meal before the end of the year!