



## **Week #1 (September 13, 2020) - "The Electric Toothbrush" Luke 10:25-37**

Begin by establishing some ground rules for your group. Even if your group has been together for a while, it is always a good idea to check in and make sure you all share a common set of values. Here are five things you might consider as part of that discussion.

**PRAYER:** Starting your time together in prayer and finishing your time together in prayer for one another is a powerful way to bookend a gathering of your group.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** What is said in the group stays in the group. Talk about this and make sure everyone is on the same page with this value.

**LISTEN:** Value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond or fixing someone's problem.

**SHARING:** Be sensitive about the amount of time you share. Try and hear somewhat equally from all members of the group.

**SENSITIVITY:** There is a lot happening in the world. On top of all the stuff that we can see, there are things that people are going through that are unseen. Be sensitive to the fact that there may be people who are really hurting or very anxious, or stressed, or scared, or angry.

### **Small Group Questions**

1. (Question intended for groups that are new and just starting). Share with the group a little about who you are, how long you have been at MPC, what kind of bible studies have you been a part of before, and what you are expecting to get out of time with this group of people.
2. We have been in quarantine. There has been racial unrest. Economic uncertainty. On and on and on..... How are you holding up? What have been your biggest worries? What have been the unexpected blessings of this time?

### **Group Exercise**

This exercise is intended to give you a general idea of how well you know who lives around you. This instrument is not meant to bring any kind of shame on anyone. If you know nothing about anyone who lives near you, that's ok.

Imagine that the middle box in the diagram below is where you live. Write your address in that box. Now, each of the corresponding eight boxes are to represent the people that live next to you. Obviously, every apartment / condo / townhouse / home is configured differently. However, the basic idea is to identify the eight people who live closest to where you live. For the letter a. write the name(s) of the people who live in that residence. For the letter b. write what you know about them – general information – occupation, how long they've lived there, etc. For the letter c. write information you would know after connecting with them – career plans, dreams, struggles, what do they think about God – you know – the basics.

Take 10 minutes to complete the exercise and then reconvene as a group to discuss some of the questions below.

- What did this exercise reveal about how well you know your neighbors?
- What are the ways in which you serve your neighbors?
- What are the ways in which your neighbors serve you?
- What are the ways in which this season of COVID might inhibit you getting to know your neighbors? Are there unique and creative ways to get to know your neighbors during this season?
- If step one is to have an understanding of how well we know our neighbors, what might step #2 look like for you?

Hold on to this piece of paper until the end of our 8-week study and see if there is any more information known after the 8 weeks.

You might consider posting it somewhere in your life where you would be reminded to pray for your neighbors. Maybe slide it into your bible to be reminded to pray.

**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**a.**

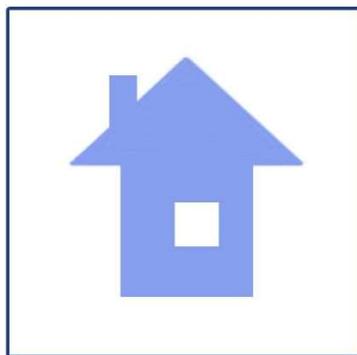
**b.**

**c.**

**a.**

**b.**

**c.**



**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**a.**

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**c.**

**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

\*taken from "The Art of Neighboring – Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door"