

Growing Young: Great Neighbors
Core Group Discussion Guide
May 20, 2018

Message Overview:

Churches who are growing young are churches who care about the neighborhoods they live in. This message will draw from the story of the Good Samaritan and examine how we become the kind of church that actively cares about our communities. This message will be challenging because there are various ways in which we are called to be good neighbors that get under our skin and cause us discomfort.

Text:

- Luke 10:25-37

Questions for Discussion:

Gathering Activity:

1. As a group, make a list of all of the ways your church serves and engages both locally and globally—whether through organized group efforts, personally-motivated service, or congregational and denominational initiatives. Think of as many areas of service, mission, advocacy for justice, and community engagement as you can.
 - a. When you look at this list, what themes do you see? What encourages you? What questions does this raise?
2. If our church moved out of this neighborhood, for what would we be missed? Who would miss us most? What does this tell us?
3. What kind of posture do we tend to take in our church toward heated cultural issues? What influences that posture? How do young people respond to our conversations (or lack of conversations) about these issues?
4. What do ethnic and socioeconomic diversity look like at our church? How do we feel about that reality? What are we doing to build bridges toward greater mix of people in our context?

Closing Prayer:

Read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, listening prayerfully to Jesus' and consider the following:

1. definition of who our neighbors are
2. what it means to love them
3. how loving them is an extension of loving God.