

LIVING A KAIROS LIFE

CONNECTING IN GOD'S TIME



SMALL GROUP
LEADER'S GUIDE FOR
"NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE
AND THE LOVE OF GOD"

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 neighborhood
INITIATIVE

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“Getting Back to Our Roots”

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42 - 47

Small groups typically follow more of an inwardly focused approach. *Living a Kairos Life* and *Neighborhood initiative and the Love of God* are designed to move us outwardly in our focus and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In the best-selling book by Jim Collins and Jerry Porras titled *Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies*, the authors introduced the concept that most companies live in the “tyranny of the or:” either-or dichotomies that force the choice between profit and benefit to customers, between speed and quality, and so on. The authors point out that successful companies actually pursue two seemingly contrary goals simultaneously. For instance, Starbucks serves quality coffee that you can get in a drive-thru. No one will question their success. I believe to be a successful small group we should be inwardly and externally focused. We should pursue these two seemingly contrary goals simultaneously.

In Acts 2:42 – 47 we see that the Early Church’s small home gatherings had both of these, attention to the needs of the community of believers as well as an overflow of love to their surrounding community. Their home gatherings became outposts for the spread of God’s love and the gospel. As Michael Green points out in his book *Evangelism in the Early Church*, “Christian missionaries made a deliberate point of gaining whatever households they could as lighthouses, so to speak, from which the gospel could illuminate the surrounding darkness.” He states that the early church stressed the centrality of the household for the Christian advance. They followed the simple plan that Jesus gave his first disciples (Luke 10:5 – 9) and they turned the world upside down. An immoral Roman empire was turned on its heels by the advance of God’s kingdom as Jesus’ followers simply loved their neighbors and made disciples.

The definition of radical is “going back to the *root*” or relating to the *origin*. It is the intent of *Living the Kairos Life* and the book *Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God* to take us back to our roots, back to doing what Jesus told His first disciples to do. By God’s Spirit, let’s start a *Neighborhood Revolution of love*.

Simple Plan for Your Small Group Gatherings

In preparation for your small group gatherings, please do the following:

- Complete the “Travel Plan” each week in the Participant’s Guide.
- Prepare a brief introduction for each section. (See instructions given in each section below.)
- As needed, show video clips about neighboring that will enhance your small group experience. Many are available online.
- Use the guidelines below, as the Lord leads you, to help you with your gatherings.

Session Guidelines:

Introductory Session: Living a Kairos Life

- **The Introductory Session** serves to prepare your small group for the following six weeks. You may choose to give out the Participant’s Guide the week before and have each person read ***An Introduction to Kairos*** (Pages 3 - 4 in the Participant’s Guide) in preparation for the Introductory Session or read it during the Introductory Session and then have them respond to the questions listed in the Participant’s Guide.
- **Have them write on their “Who is My Neighbor?” page** (Page 13 in the Participant’s Guide) the names of eight neighbors or the number they know and what they know about each neighbor. Have a few of them share a little bit about the neighbor they know best, encouraging positive comments. This isn’t the neighborhood complaint department.
- **Remind them of their assignment in the Participant’s Guide** for the next meeting (Section One, Pages 9 – 28).
- **Send them off with an encouragement to pray for their neighbors** at least once this week and to practice the *kairos* life.

Section 1: A Challenge from Dallas Willard and the Story Behind Neighborhood Initiative

- **Gather for prayer and worship.**
- **Give a brief introduction** to this first meeting, using *Getting Back to Our Roots, Dallas Willard’s Challenge*, showing the video by Dallas Willard at neighborhoodinitiative.org., or using another reading from this section to introduce the next six weeks.
- **Have participants write on their “Who is My Neighbor?” page** (Page 13 in the Participant’s Guide) the names of eight neighbors or the number they know and what they know about each neighbor. Have a few of them share a little bit about the neighbor they know best, encouraging positive comments. This isn’t the neighborhood complaint department.

- **Ask if they have had any kairos experiences** and have them share them with the group.
- **Ask them to share their responses to the questions** listed in Section 1 in the Participant's Guide. You may not get to all of them, but be sure to get their responses to **An Introduction to Kairos**.
- **Pray for one another and your neighbors.** If you have a large group, then you might want to break them up into twos and threes.
- **Remind them of their assignment in the Participant's Guide** for the next meeting (Section Two, Pages 29 – 41).
- **Send them off with an encouragement to pray for their neighbors** at least once this week and to practice the *kairos* life.

Section 2: Home, the Center for Ministry

- **Gather for prayer and worship.**
- **Give a *brief* introduction** for this meeting from your reading about the *Home, the Center for Ministry* or something the Lord has put on your heart to introduce in this section.
- **Have participants write on their “Who is My Neighbor?” page** (Page 13 in the Participant's Guide) any new neighbors they have gotten to know and you might have them share these with the group, encouraging positive comments. This isn't the neighborhood complaint department.
- **Ask if they have had any kairos experiences** and have them share them with the group.
- **Ask them to share their responses to the questions** listed in Section 2 in the Participant's Guide. You may not get to all of them.
- **Pray for one another and your neighbors.** If you have a large group, then you might want to break them up into twos and threes.
- **Remind them of their assignment in the Participant's Guide** for the next meeting (Section Three, Pages 43 – 60).
- **Send them off with an encouragement to pray for their neighbors** at least once this week and to practice the *kairos* life.

Section 3: Becoming Influencers Where We Live

- **Gather for prayer and worship.**
- **Give a *brief* introduction** of *Becoming Influencers Where We Live* from your reading or something the Lord has put on your heart to introduce this section.
- **Have participants write on their “*Who is My Neighbor?*” page** (Page 13 in the Participant’s Guide) any new neighbors they have gotten to know.
- **Ask if they have had any kairos experiences** and have them share them if they have.
- **Ask them to share their responses to the questions** listed in Section 3 in the Participant’s Guide. You may not get to all of them.
- **Pray for one another and your neighbors.** If you have a large group, then you might want to break them up into twos and threes.
- **Remind them of their assignment in the Participant’s Guide** for the next meeting (Section Four, Pages 61 – 74).
- **Send them off with an encouragement to pray for their neighbors** at least once this week and to practice the *kairos* life.

Section 4: Jesus’ Simple Plan

- **Gather for prayer and worship.**
- **Give a *brief* introduction** of *Jesus’ Simple Plan* from your reading in this section or something the Lord has put on your heart to introduce this section.
- **Have participants write on their “*Who is My Neighbor?*” page** (Page 13 in the Participant’s Guide) any new neighbors they have gotten to know.
- **Ask if they have had any kairos experiences** and have them share them if they have.
- **Ask them to share their responses to the questions** listed in Section 4 in the Participant’s Guide. You may not get to all of them.
- **Pray for one another and your neighbors.** If you have a large group, then you might want to break them up into twos and threes.
- **Remind them of their assignment in the Participant’s Guide** for the next meeting (Section Five, Pages 75 – 90).
- **Send them off with an encouragement to pray for their neighbors** at least once this week and to practice the *kairos* life.

Section 5: The Five Essentials for the Church's New Frontier

- **Gather for prayer and worship.**
- **Give a *brief* introduction of *The Five Essentials for the Church's New Frontier* from your reading or something the Lord has put on your heart to introduce this section.**
- **Have participants write on their "*Who is My Neighbor?*" page (Page 13 in the Participant's Guide) any new neighbors they have gotten to know.**
- **Ask if they have had any kairos experiences and have them share them if they have.**
- **Ask them to share their responses to the questions listed in Section 5 in the Participant's Guide. You may not get to all of them.**
- **Pray for one another and your neighbors.** If you have a large group, then you might want to break them up into twos and threes.
- **Remind them of their assignment in the Participant's Guide for the next meeting (Section Six, Pages 91 – 109).**
- **Send them off with an encouragement to pray for their neighbors at least once this week and to practice the *kairos* life.**

Section 6: The Overall Plan, Resources, and Concluding Story

- **Gather for prayer and worship.**
- **Give a *brief* introduction of *The Five Essentials for the Church's New Frontier* from your reading in this section or something the Lord has put on your heart to introduce this section.**
- **Have participants write on their "*Who is My Neighbor?*" page (Page 13 in the Participant's Guide) any new neighbors they have gotten to know.**
- **Ask if they have had any kairos experiences and have them share them if they have.**
- **Ask them to share their responses to the questions listed in Section 6 in the Participant's Guide. You may not get to all of them.**
- **Pray for one another and your neighbors.** If you have a large group, then you might want to break them up into twos and threes.
- **Send them off with an encouragement to pray for their neighbors at least once this week and to practice the *kairos* life.**

Concluding Thoughts

These last six weeks are training for a lifetime of loving your actual neighbors and those you come in contact with each day. I pray this time ignites something in your heart and in the hearts of those in your small group that will cause this good work of Neighborhood Initiative to continue in all of your neighborhoods and spread to neighborhoods throughout your city.

May the Lord continue to open your eyes to what the Father is doing all around you and may you experience the most fulfilling life with Him as you live a kairos life.

Post Your Stories

Like our Facebook fan page to join the Neighborhood Initiative online community! Share your stories, photos, and videos of opportunities God has given you in your neighborhood. See how God is at work through Neighborhood Initiative all over the world.

To like us on Facebook, visit:

www.facebook.com/neighborhoodinitiative

To access more resources or order books:

Visit: www.neighborhoodinitiative.org

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