

# LIVING A KAIROS LIFE

CONNECTING IN GOD'S TIME



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

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 neighborhood  
INITIATIVE

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# Welcome to the Kairos Adventure

You are about to embark on an amazing journey with God as He invites you to partner with Him in your neighborhood and with those you encounter in your daily travels. You will be introduced to the *kairos* life and see how by living this kind of life you will experience freshness in your walk with God. The rich meaning of *kairos* and this lifestyle will be unpacked in *An Introduction to Kairos*.

As you read *An Introduction to Kairos* and the book *Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God*, I pray that you will experience the work of God all around you and the kind of life you have always wanted to have with those outside of the church. I pray that you will love your neighbors with the love that the Holy Spirit has placed in your heart for them. I pray you will have eyes to see what the Father is doing and join Him in the ride of your life.

## Travel Plans

Here are a few things that you will need in your travels in the next six weeks:

- Start your journey by joining a small group, if you are not a part of one already.
- Begin to pray for your neighbors hopefully, by name. I recommend taking prayer walks so it gets you out in the neighborhood. This may not be practical if you live in an apartment or condo. Or, pray in a location that best gets you in touch with God and your neighbors in prayer.
- Read the following before you start your **first meeting** with your small group:
  - Read first, *An Introduction to Kairos* in the Participant's Guide (Pages 3 - 4).
  - *Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God* (Pages 9 – 28).
- Follow the reading schedule listed in each section of the Participant's Guide to prepare for each meeting.
- To prepare for discussion each week, write out your responses to the questions in each section.
- If you have a *kairos* experience, come prepared to share your story(ies). (You will better understand what this is all about after reading *An Introduction to Kairos*.)

## An Introduction to Kairos (A Must Read!)

“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working...I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does....For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.” John 5:17, 19, 20 **Jesus**

*Kairos* living is the most exciting life you will ever want to live. It is filled with adventure. It is full of surprises. Once you enter into this kind of life you will never want to go back to the old way of living. It is how Jesus lived His life.

Most of us are driven by the clock and our busy lives and deadlines, but Jesus lived His life free of these constraints. His relationship with His Father and loving and serving people were at the heart of what allowed Him to live a *kairos* life.

You are probably asking, “What is *kairos*?” I am glad you asked! The Greek has two words for time: *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* concerns time as in the 24-hour day. We define our workweeks by the number of hours that we work. We have a list of things to do and only so much time to get everything done. Having a *chronos* mind-set can often make us miss out on seeing what God is doing all around us. Our eyes are instead trained on the clock, where we need to go next, and checking off another item on our “to do list.”

*Kairos* is quite different than *chronos*. It is not linear. It doesn't include a clock or a schedule. It is living life in the moment and being fully present when you are with people in that moment. *Kairos* is best referred to as an “opportunity.” For example, parents have only a certain season of time to raise their children and then the opportunity is over. Opportunity may refer to a lengthy period of *chronos* or the short *kairos* moments that we are to redeem. The Apostle Paul says, “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity (*kairos*)...” (Ephesians 5:16, 17 NIV). And again he says in Colossians 4:5, “Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity (*kairos*).”

The funny thing about *kairos* moments is that they are often viewed as intrusions in our lives. They frequently occur when we least expect them and they seldom fit into our self-determined plan for the day. Each time one occurs, we are forced to make a choice. Do I disrupt my plans and choose to lay them aside for the sake of what God is doing in the moment?

I have often thought that when Jesus gave the parable of the Good Samaritan, He was making a comparison between the way He lived His life and the way the religious leaders of His day lived theirs. The priest and the Levite were too busy after their temple service activities to stop and care for their desperate “neighbor” who was beaten and robbed and left to die by the side of the road. Oddly enough, he uses the most despised in society in that day, the Samaritan, to demonstrate extraordinary “neighbor-love.” The religious leaders missed out on the *kairos* moment. It may have been an inconvenience to their getting home on time or there was too much risk involved. They could not be bothered.

### “Doing what the Father is doing”

You may be asking now, “How do I move from seeing these moments as more than impositions and enter into the *kairos* life?” During the early development of Neighborhood Initiative the Lord helped me understand that there were two ways I could choose to move forward with this good work that He

initiated. I could choose to try and make things happen on my own or I could join Him in what He was doing. This is at the heart of the *kairos* lifestyle. I discovered the first approach was difficult and frustrating and the second was easy and full of wonderful surprises.

In the early days of NI, Dallas Willard told me, “Don’t stop doing what you are doing. If you keep moving forward with what you are doing we will see revival and awakening.” These were significant words coming from Dallas, one who chose his words carefully. I took what he said to heart.

If you have listened to or read much of Dallas, one of his noteworthy quotes among so many was, “Don’t try to make anything happen.” I watched this up close and personal in his life. He by no means was a self-promoter and yet God used him greatly to influence so many lives in and outside the church. He understood and lived in the “easy yoke” with Jesus and did what the Father was doing.

Not trying to make something happen is such a freeing way to live life. I have found there are three things that I can do that have enabled me to live a life free of performance and “trying to make something happen.” These three simple activities have allowed me to see what the Father is doing and then I join Him. They have shown me His activity in my own neighborhood. These three have enabled me to live the *kairos* life and seize divine opportunities. Here are the three very simple activities: “**I pray**,” and “**I wait**,” and “**I watch**.”

### “**I pray**”

Let me bring it home. Each Tuesday morning I walk through my neighborhood and **I pray** for each of my neighbors by name and I ask the Lord to show me what He is doing in their lives. Sometimes He will speak to me about my neighbors or give me ideas of what He would like me to do. Sometimes I hear nothing or see nothing happening and I have boldly asked Him, “Is this a fruitless activity?” He has faithfully and dramatically shown me that He is in favor of my weekly prayer walks.

### “**I wait**”

Rather than try to make something happen in my neighborhood after I pray, **I wait** for Him. This kind of waiting is not a passive waiting, but a waiting with a sense of expectation. When Isaiah speaks of “those who wait on the Lord” in Isaiah 40:31, he is referring to a waiting with expectation and that’s the kind of waiting I do. **I pray** and then **I wait** for the next thing the Father invites me to do with Him in my neighborhood.

### “**I watch**”

Then **I watch** and out of nowhere something will happen that I least expect. A neighbor will call me and ask me to perform a wedding at his home or another will ask me to officiate at a funeral for someone in the neighborhood. Or, a fifty-foot tree is blown down in front of our home, a car is crushed, the tree lands on our neighbor’s house across the street, and an opportunity opens up with a neighbor. Or, I follow an ambulance up the street and that experience opens a new relationship with one of my neighbors. You can’t make these kinds of situations happen. Because of His sovereign working and prayer, God has invited me in to what He is doing.

Living the *kairos* life with the Father is like a little kid who is waiting for his dad to invite him on a new excursion with him. He knows that only dad can drive the car and he waits for his dad to say, “Come on, kid! I have a wonderful surprise for you. Let’s go!” And off they go together with dad in the driver’s seat. This is the adventure I spoke of earlier. This is the *kairos* life: becoming like a child and enjoying the ride with Dad on an amazing journey through life.

With this perspective, we enter into our reading of *Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God*.

# Introductory Session

## Living a Kairos Life

### Parable of the Good Samaritan

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:25 - 37

### Read An Introduction to Kairos (Pages 3 - 4 in the Participant's Guide)

1. What was your response to "An Introduction to *Kairos*?"
2. What insights can you draw from the parable of the Good Samaritan and examples in Jesus' life about living a *kairos* life?
3. What recent *kairos* moments have you experienced?



## **Section 2: Home, the Center for Ministry**

“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....” Acts 2:46

“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 5:42

**Read Chapters 3 – 5 (Pages 29 – 41).**

**Reflect on and answer the following questions:**

1. Why does ministry start at home (in our neighborhood) and what kind of impact might the church have if it did? (Pages 29-32)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was the reason the author cited for no longer washing windshields in front of 7-11 and El Pollo Loco and what happened when he moved in to the neighborhood? (Pages 33-36)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why is it imperative to listen to the Holy Spirit? (Page 38)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What impressed you about Mary Alice’s stories? (Pages 39-40)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What spoke most to you in this section?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Praxis: What practical application(s) can you make with your neighbors from this section?

## **Section 3: Becoming Influencers Where We Live**

"You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14, 16

**Read Chapters 6 – 10 (Pages 43 – 60).  
Reflect on and answer the following questions:**

1. Where did the author step out in faith? How is faith spelled? If we all made this kind of step, how would it impact our community? (Pages 43-47)
  
2. What are the five building blocks from Randy Frazee's book? Why are they important? (Pages 49-51)
  
3. Read the last paragraph at the bottom of page 53 that ends at the top of page 54. What's the message?
  
4. What did the Denver pastors challenge their people to do? What impact do you think it would have on pastors in your city? (Pages 57-58)
  
5. How am I to view my neighborhood according to the author? What would happen if we had this kind of perspective? (Pages 59-60)
  
6. What spoke most to you in this section?
  
7. Praxis: What practical application(s) can you make with your neighbors from this section?

## **Section 4: Jesus' Simple Plan**

"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'" Luke 10:5-9

**Read Chapters 11 – 14 (Pages 61 – 74).  
Reflect on and answer the following questions:**

1. Why does the modern church, present day Christianity and individual believers not resemble their counterparts in the book of Acts? What might happen if we made this shift? (Page 62)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Jesus gave his disciples a few simple principles in reaching and discipling people. What are the five key points the author draws from Jesus' directives? Explain each. (Pages 65-68)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. A number of observations are made when making the home the base of ministry. Find the three that impact you the most and why? (Pages 69-71)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why is the church in America in decline and what can we do about it? (Pages 73-74)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What spoke most to you in this section?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Praxis: What practical application(s) can you make with your neighbors from this section?

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

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

**Read Chapters 15 – 16 (Pages 75 – 90).  
Reflect on and answer the following questions:**

1. What are the different examples and ways shared in chapter 15 about being a good neighbor? Which one stands out most to you? And what part does prayer play in being a good neighbor? (Pages 75-80)
2. What does it mean to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, according to Dallas Willard? (Page 82)
3. What's the difference between a "what suits me best mind-set" and a "ministry mind-set?" (Pages 83-84)
4. What is a "*kairos*" moment and how could you benefit by applying this truth in your life? (Pages 84-86)
5. What is the important lesson learned from Nadine's experience? (Pages 87-88)
6. The author uses the parable of the mustard seed to impress upon the reader the importance of starting small? Why is such a concept important? In time what will happen? (Pages 88-89)
7. What are you and other believers deputized to be and do? What would it take for you to obey Jesus in His command to make disciples? (Pages 89-90)
8. What spoke most to you in this section?
9. Praxis: What application(s) can you make with neighbors from this section?

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

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:37, 38

**Read Chapters 17 – 19 (pages 91 – 109).  
Reflect on and answer the following questions:**

1. Of the eight ideas for getting started with being a good neighbor, which one(s) most apply to your context? (Pages 91-94)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does this chapter help you think about building relationships with your neighbors? (Pages 94-97)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. The author says, "One person can't do everything." Why is such a statement important and how does that advice impact your ministry? (Pages 97-98)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. From reading pages 98-101, what is your commitment to making disciples?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. While the recap was not written as a prayer list, use it to create one from the author's "Simple Steps to Start a Neighborhood Ministry." (Pages 101-102)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Which ideas fit best with the way God has made you? (Pages 103-106)

7. When the doctor said to Mary Alice, "I wish I had a neighbor like you," what did the doctor mean? What is God saying to you through that statement? (Pages 107-109)
  
8. What spoke most to you in this section?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Praxis: What practical application(s) can you make with your neighbors from this section?

## 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.

## Acknowledgement

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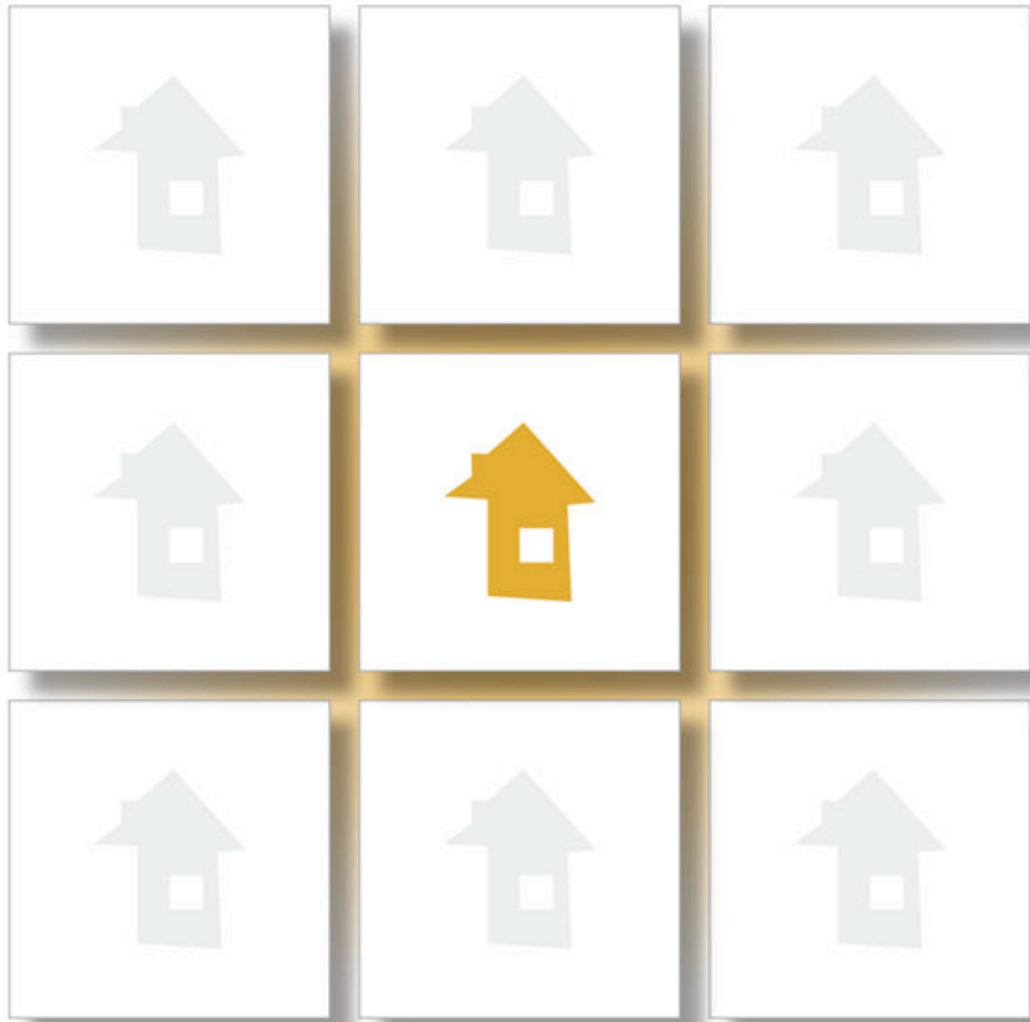
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**Who is my** NEIGHBOR?

