

Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

- *How much time do you spend alone in a day? No people, phone, music, TV, books, or anything... just you.*
- *Have you ever experienced feeling lonely even when you're surrounded by other people? Share your experience with your Life Group.*
- *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

As the world grows more connected, our neighbors are closer than ever. But how close are we to our neighbors? You might not share a fence, but you can still share their burdens and joys. Now's the time to show the world, "How to Neighbor."

Start digging. Read Mark 1:40-5

What would it have been like to live as a leper during Jesus day? How were lepers treated? Was this a lonely life?

Was there a risk for this leper to approach Jesus when he was surrounded by the crowds? Would you have the kind of faith that this leper showed?

How does Jesus respond to the lepers request to heal him? Why do you think Jesus healed the leper by reaching out his hand and touching him, when Jesus at other times would heal by simply speaking?

Why did Jesus tell the leper to show himself to the priests and make an offering for his cleansing? (Read Leviticus 14.)

How would this leper's life be different after his healing by Jesus and cleansing by the priests?

➤ Relational poverty is defined as "a mindset that creates a lack of relational intimacy and connections to live a meaningful life." Do you know anyone who is experiencing relational poverty? How have you personally experienced relational poverty on your own life?

➤ Does the concept of relational poverty make you think or act differently? Explain.

We read that the leper stepped out in faith and asked Jesus to heal him. Is there a place in your life that you need to ask Jesus to heal?

Digging Deeper

➤ *On Sunday, Pastor Jason shared the four leading causes of relational poverty (see sermon notes). Which causes do you relate to the most?*

➤ *How would your life be different if you believed you were God's "Plan A" to care for people that experience relational poverty?*

➤ *What is one intentional step you will take this week as a result of what God has taught you?*

How to Neighbor

LONELY LOVED | MAY 21, 2017

Mark 12:30-31 (ESV) *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

Genesis 2:18 (ESV) *“It is not good that the man should be alone...”*

➤ LONELINESS IS A PRODUCT OF **RELATIONAL POVERTY**.

Relational Poverty

A lack of relational intimacy and connections
to live a meaningful life.

Why are more of us dealing with relational poverty?

1. BREAKDOWN OF **FAMILIES**
2. INCREASED **MOBILITY**
3. HEAVY **WORKLOADS**
4. RISE OF **SOCIAL MEDIA**

How do we love the lonely?

1. LOVE WITH **TOUCH**

Matthew 8:1-3 (ESV) *When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. ² And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” ³ And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.*

2. LOVE BY **LISTENING**

Luke 24:13-19 (ESV) *That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?”*

3. LOVE WITH **TIME**

Luke 5:20-26 (ESV) *And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” ²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ²² When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk?’ ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. ²⁶ And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”*

Isaiah 41:10 (The Message) *Don’t panic. I’m with you. There’s no need to fear for I’m your God. I’ll give you strength. I’ll help you. I’ll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.*