



Neighborhood Analysis Exercise

Group Preparation

1. **Lead group through the Dwelling in the Word reading and reflection on Ephesians 2:4-10.**

2. **Introduce the idea of a neighborhood visit.**

Emphasize that the goal is to get to know more about the neighborhood and its people. We do this by using all 5 senses. We are not going out to teach anything, to convert anyone, or to change the neighborhood, just to learn from the people who know more about it than we do.

3. **Ask participants for ideas of how you can learn about the neighborhood.**

Looking at the houses and businesses, observing what kinds of services are available, listening to what languages are spoken, talking to people, etc. Press your group to come up with as many ideas as possible by asking, "What else?"

4. **Explain parameters:**

- You will go out into the community 2 by 2, just as Jesus sent the disciples (3 in a group if you have an uneven number).
- Establish what time to return.
- Pray with your partner before leaving the building – that you will find the right people to talk to, that you would be observant and respectful.

5. **Give three assignments:**

- Buy something to eat or drink in the community.
- Talk to at least one person you encounter.
- Bring back a token to represent something you learned about the people you met and the neighborhood.

6. **Have participants review the Observation List of things to look for during your neighborhood visit (on second page).**

Dwelling in the Word

Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us

⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰ For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reflect

1. Listen to the passage.
2. Underline any words or phrases that stand out to you.
3. Sit quietly with those words.
4. What message do you hear?
5. Share your reflection with another person.



Observation List for Neighborhood Analysis Exercise

- Who do you see? Describe the people.
 - What are they doing?
 - What conversations do you observe?
 - Are people alone or in groups?
 - Do you see people walking on the streets? Driving? Sitting? Biking?
 - How are the people dressed? Pay attention to details such as shoes, jewelry, hair and clothing styles.
- What do you hear and smell?
- Pay attention to the town infrastructure: roads, sidewalks, streetlights, traffic lights, street signs, etc. What do they tell you about the community?
- Describe the houses you see: single-family, apartments, condos? Are they well cared for? Do you see toys in the yards? Cars parked out front? What can you tell about the community?
- What kinds of signage do you see? Advertising? Fliers on telephone poles?
- What is your overall impression of the community?
- What churches or other community gathering places do you observe?
- Describe the commercial district: what stores do you see? What stores are not present? What signs of commercial vibrancy do you see?
- What other businesses do you observe? Can you get a sense of what people in this community do for a living?
- Where are the children? Is there a school in the community? What signs of children or youth activities do you notice?
- What leisure activities can you observe? Is there a gym, movie theater, sports facility, etc.?
- What churches or other community gathering places do you observe?

