



## Week 2 | The Neighboring Church | February 5

**Key Focus:** The number one obstacle to loving your neighbor is time.

### Opening Up:

- If you could add another 5 hours to your day, ever day, what would occupy that time?
- What is your biggest time suck?
- What is something you waste time on and you know that you shouldn't?

**Reference:** Matthew 11:28-12:8

### Discuss:

1. Ephesians 5:16 challenges us to rescue our time and seize opportunities for the good. What do you need to rescue your time from?
2. What is something that Jesus has done for you that he now wants to do through you?
3. The Pharisees put heavy burdens on people. (Matthew 23:4) The Pharisees kept should-ing on the people of God. It is hard carrying around the yoke of all of those “shoulds.” How is Jesus’s yoke easy and light?
4. The Pharisees made even a Sabbath’s “rest” a burden. Jesus declared that loving people (see the example of David) and loving God (see the example of the temple) are the most important things. How can we arrange our time in order to show our value for the two most important things? (Matthew 22:37-40)
5. A religion is what ever seek for approval. What is one of your false religions?
6. Jesus says, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” In other words I desire love and not mere religion. How does our religion sometimes get in the way of our love?
7. How does your false religion keep you from resting spiritually? (Rest is not just the absence of work, rest is the presence of satisfaction.)
8. How is the neighboring going?
  1. Do you know your neighbors better this week than you did last week?
  2. What needs to change in your life?
  3. How is your time being spent?
  4. *If you could get rid of the work-behind-the-work (approval seeking), what opportunities for neighboring would open up?*
9. Review the BLESS tool. What is one action you can take this week?
10. Pray.