

SESSION 6

PURPOSE IN
NEIGHBOURHOODS

licc.

 PRAY

We suggest you start with this simple prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our time together now. Would you help us see what purpose means in our neighbourhoods. Amen.

 READ

Read Matthew 22:36–40

 WATCH

Watch the session 6 video, available from the *On Purpose* webpage.

 DISCUSS

1. After loving our Father in heaven, why is Jesus chiefly concerned with how we treat those around us?
2. Does Jesus' command to love our neighbours as ourselves mean loving everyone who is similar to us? If not, how do we go about loving those to whom we're different? Think about ethnicity, age, political belief, or anything else that you can think of that reveals how you are different to your neighbours.
3. How do you feel when you're interacting with your neighbours? Does your heart leap for joy, or do you feel an ominous sense of dread? This is a judgement-free zone!
4. Jesus tells us to love our neighbours. Of course, he's referring to everyone here, but that includes our actual neighbours. What are some ways you have demonstrated practical love to those living alongside you?

5. Revisiting Jeremiah 29:7, think about what a vision of peace and prosperity (or shalom – the welfare, security, and potential for flourishing) of your street or area would look like. What could peace and prosperity mean there, and how can you work for it?

 PRAY

You'll need someone to lead this.

It's time to pray again. We're going to use our imaginations. In a moment of quiet, shut your eyes, and imagine a situation in your neighbourhood in your head that you want to pray for.

Imagine the situation as it is now. People, faces, activities, roads, parks, schools, bus stops.

Now, think about how you want it to be. Does the activity change? What's happening on people's faces? What are they feeling? No words. Just imagine a picture.

God is seeing and hearing your prayer for your neighbourhood.

To close, say together: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*