

Ice Breaker Question:

Did you learn any neighbor's name this past week? Did you have the opportunity to see and talk to a new neighbor?

Read and discuss the scripture: Mark 12:28-31, Luke 10:38-42

1. In reading Luke 10:38-42, do you associate more with Martha or Mary? Why? If you were going to defend Martha, what would you say?
2. Martha is described with words like distracted, worried and upset. For Americans who tend to be achievers, we can be busy and distracted. What are the things you get distracted or worried about?
3. What was Jesus saying to Martha? Do you ever need to hear this yourself?
4. Discuss the following myths about time and how you see them impacting our culture:
 - Things will settle down someday.
 - More will be enough.
 - Everybody lives like this.
 - Keeping myself and my family very busy is good.
5. Do you have any time on the margins in your life (time to be interrupted without getting frustrated or annoyed)? As you take a look at how you spend your time, are there things you need to say "no" to doing?
6. Imagine yourself with the time it would take to be a great neighbor. What are things you would have to sacrifice to make that a reality?
7. Are you passive or active with how you spend your time?

Prayer:

Keep the following prayer requests from our church family in mind as you close:

- > Prayers of healing for Charlie Frick, Hadley Lehr, John Lindenschmidt, Jane Pollak, Pierce Robb, Talbott Sumners, and Chuck Vogt.

Reminders for your group:

- > ZPC Spring Spruce-Up | Sunday, May 1 | 10 am-1 pm | Around ZPC
- > Habitat Faith Build | ZPC Week | May 10-14

Homework:

Do an audit of how you spend your time or pick one thing to give up this week (social media, TV, gaming, etc.).

From the last two weeks: Learn a new neighbor's name and walk your neighborhood.

Leaders notes:

In our world where we rarely lack shelter, food, clothing, or services – time may be our most valuable commodity. Today, we discuss how we use our time. Are there things we need to change in how we use our time to be healthier, to honor God, and to be better neighbors?

[Question 1] The guess is that most of us relate to Martha. Martha appears busy and her sister Mary does not. Martha may be doing good things such as preparing food or cleaning the house, but she misses out on something better, spending time with Jesus. Perhaps she takes for granted spending time with Jesus. Perhaps we do too.

[Question 2] We often get distracted by living in an information world where media and information is too easily accessible and bombards us at every turn. We worry about problems of the world and issues such as illness, paying the bills, retirement, and relationships. How can we give those distractions and worries to God?

[Question 3] Jesus says you worry about many things, but only one thing is needed. This thing appears to be spending time with Jesus, listening to what he says. Jesus calls us not to worry about many things, but to spend time listening to him.

[Question 4] Allow for open sharing and try as a leader to stretch your group's understanding of being busy and the expectations on our time. Things will never settle down and more will never be enough, unless we choose to allow enough to be enough and choose how we use our time differently.

[Question 5] When we are too busy, we schedule ourselves so that we don't have time for interruptions. When we have no time on the margins, we may miss seeing God at work, through an unexpected interruption from a neighbor, friend, or even family. In what areas of our lives can we say no more often?

[Question 6] In the book, *The Art of Neighboring*, the authors talk about making hard choices for things that take less time. More time at home allows for being available for family and neighbors. We may have to say no to things that take us away, or choose to say no to media or electronics that keep us pinned down inside our homes.

[Question 7] This simple question helps us think about whether are we pro-active in planning our time or if we let outside influences make us too busy. Martha may have chosen good things, but Mary chose the better thing – actively spending time with Jesus.