

DAY 19

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 19
2024

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish." John 1:14

T TOP 5

PRAY FOR THE 5 NON-CHRISTIANS THAT GOD
HAS PUT IN YOUR LIFE AND ON YOUR HEART.
PRAY THAT YOU WOULD LOVE THEM WELL.

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Confession, I once worked at a church for a few years and we were so busy taking care of guests who visited the church and the folks at the church that I never met my neighbors in all that time! I say this to my shame and regret.

In 2005, I was given a book called "Radical Reformation" by Mark Driscoll. My wife and I read statements like this one and were convicted to the core:

"I cared more about how I appeared to people than about whether I share the passion of Jesus for those who are lost." That night, I learned that Reformation requires that Christians and their churches move forward on their knees, continually confessing their addictions to morality and the appearance of godliness, which does not penetrate the heart and transform lives. In the end, I learned that God's mission is not to create a team of moral and decent people but rather to create a movement of holy loving missionaries who are comfortable and truthful around lost sinners and who, in this way, look more like Jesus than most of his pastors do."

We were so convicted. From that time on "we moved into the neighborhood"! We worked with a simple formula:

Meet Needs – How could we find creative ways to regularly bless our neighbors?

Build Relationships – We started "doing life" with our neighbors. We became friends, we loved them unconditionally, we went on vacations. We lived our faith before them.

Share Jesus – We lived a life that caused people to ask questions about faith.

We weren't trying to "get them"! They were people, not projects. Have a "Top Five" of folks who are far from Christ and consider these questions prayerfully:

FOUR QUESTIONS:

- 1—Do you (The way you live your life, The way you walk & Talk, especially to non-Christian people) make it hard for people to believe in God?
- 2—Does your Church make it hard for people to believe in God?
- 3—Who's your one? Start with 1.
- 4—Who's your five? Not hard to work up to – "The harvest is plentiful"!



Contributed by John Wills, Missions Pastor & Residency Program Director | Champions Forest
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