



STUDY GUIDE

LIFEHOUSES 4.27.14

[WARM-UP]

Do a brief reflection on the homes you have lived in over your life. When you think of the neighbors from the places you have lived, who tops the list of one of your favorite neighbors and why?

Describe the ideal neighbor. Have you ever had a neighbor that fit some of those descriptions? How much of those descriptions describe you as a neighbor?

[DIGGING DEEPER]

One of the most well known statements of Jesus is “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31). Why is getting to know your neighbors a big key to loving your neighbors?

What is the common theme in these Scriptures?
Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:25-27

Why is this one of the most well known teachings of Jesus?

Why is it that people in a church can spend so much time, effort and money at trying to love and serve people in their city, their state, in their nation and other places around the world but overlook investing the time, effort and money in loving and serving their literal neighbors?

What is the most loving thing you can think of doing for the people who live right next door to you?

According to Acts 17:26-27, why do we live where we live and why has God placed us in our neighborhoods?

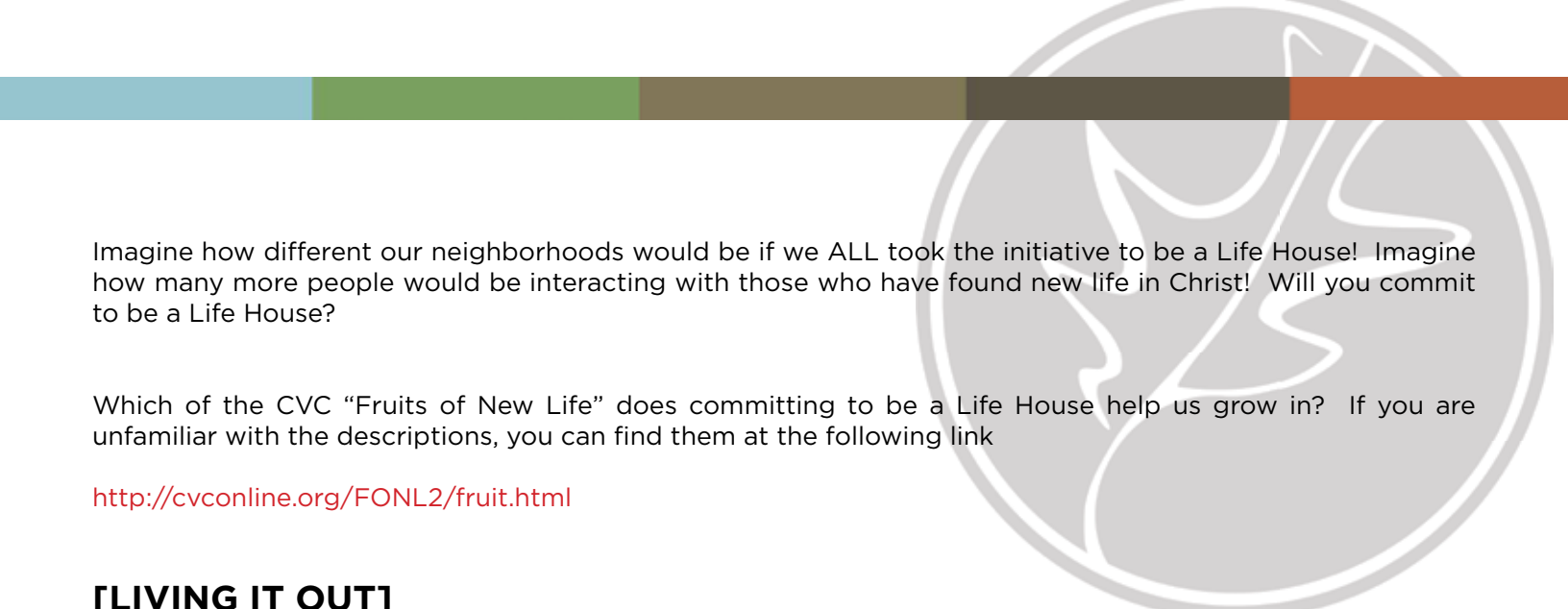
This week at CVC we kicked off a series called “**Life Houses**”. A “**Life House**” is a home where the occupant sees themselves placed strategically by God to love, serve and interact with their immediate neighbors with the ultimate desire that they would come to experience new life in Christ. Many of us have lived next to someone for years and still don’t even know their name. Every neighborhood has needs and every CVCer is living in some kind of neighborly context and placed on purpose by God to help meet those needs. The primary focus of being a Life House is to build genuine relationships with our immediate neighbors through love and service, believing and hoping that it will lead to a visible and verbal witnessing opportunity to share Christ. Life Houses is not a project or an event. This is movement, a way of life we are calling our people to; an identity for our home.

A Light House makes 3 Commitments:

1-Prayer - committing to know our neighbors and pray for them regularly. (2 Tim. 2:1)

2-Care - committing to sense and observe practical tangible needs within the life of our neighbors and demonstrate God’s love by meeting those needs. (1 John 3:17-18)

3-Share - As we build relationships with our neighbors, their curiosity is often awakened and doors to share our faith in Christ become increasingly natural. A Life House listens to the story of their neighbors, shares their story when given the opportunity and then shares God’s story when it feels natural and invited. (Luke 24:47; 1 Peter 3:15)

A decorative header at the top of the page consists of four horizontal bars in light blue, green, brown, and orange. On the right side, there is a large, faint circular logo containing a stylized white outline of a person's head and shoulders.

Imagine how different our neighborhoods would be if we ALL took the initiative to be a Life House! Imagine how many more people would be interacting with those who have found new life in Christ! Will you commit to be a Life House?

Which of the CVC “Fruits of New Life” does committing to be a Life House help us grow in? If you are unfamiliar with the descriptions, you can find them at the following link

<http://cvconline.org/FONL2/fruit.html>

[LIVING IT OUT]

-Read through the CVC Life House guide booklet

-Learn the name of one of your unknown neighbors this week and remember to pray for them during the week.

-Map out your immediate 8 neighbors this week and fill in the information that you do not have on them (there is a page in the CVC Life House booklet for this too)

-Start praying, observing and planning how you can serve your immediate neighbors on the weekend of May 24, 25 when all the other Life Houses will be engaging their neighbors

-Close this time in prayer. A great prayer for this time can be centered around the theme of: God give me a desire to be in relationship with my immediate neighbors; to know them, moved to love them and able to serve them.

- If ready, commit to being a Life House - being a neighbor that lives their new life in Christ in such a way that impacts their immediate neighbors through love and service. A Life House commits to Prayer, Care and Share. Please let CVC know so that we can pray for you and encourage you (email, Facebook or turning in a commitment card)

Recommended book to order and read if you mean business.

http://www.christianbook.com/neighbor-ing-jesus-starts-right-outside-door/jay-pathak/9780801014598/pd/014598?product_redirect=1&Ntt=014598&item_code=&Ntk=keywords&event=ESRCP

A Website that can also help encourage and equip you to be a Life House.

<http://artofneighboring.com/>