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LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

STUDY
GUIDE



About Every Home for Christ

Every Home for Christ is an international missions organization with 178 ministry offices around the world. Since 1946, Every Home for Christ has been serving the Church by equipping and mobilizing believers to participate in sharing the love of Jesus with every person on earth.

For more information, visit **EveryHome.org**

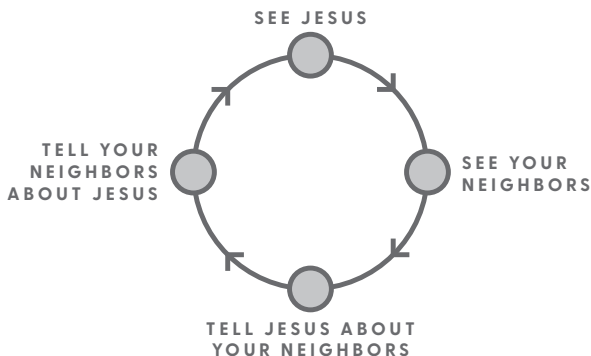


WITNESS

Our lives are changed when we walk with Jesus. The early disciples knew this very well. Day after day, their lives were transformed as they saw the sick healed and the dead raised. After all they'd seen, nobody had to coerce them into telling others about it. Evangelism for them wasn't forced; it was natural. It started with seeing Jesus and telling others about what they had seen. They were witnesses. Being a witness is a process that begins with seeing Jesus and the work he has done in our lives. Then we get the opportunity to see our neighbors. This process then turns into us talking to Jesus and telling him about our neighbors in the place of prayer. Over time, there comes a moment when we are given the opportunity to tell our neighbors about Jesus and who he is in our lives. This isn't just one conversation but numerous interactions over time. We call this process See and Tell.

There are enough believers in the world that we would reach the entire world if every Christian shared Jesus with three people. Of course, it's not that simple. But it does mean it's not out of reach. Sharing the love of Jesus with our neighbors begins with knowing their name, understanding their circumstances, praying for them, meeting their needs, and offering hope. This is our calling as followers of Jesus — sharing a message of love

that meets our neighbors right where they are. It starts with us. Let's be a witness to our world.



See Jesus

Being a witness begins with our encounters with Jesus. Before we can see ourselves, those around us, or our world, we must have our eyes opened by the love of Jesus. We cannot carry a love we are not deeply, consistently, and intentionally experiencing for ourselves. Seeing Christ's love draws us into wholeness, fills us with hope, and opens our eyes to the people around us.

See Your Neighbors

Loving our neighbors starts with seeing our neighbors. We can't love someone without first having a genuine interest and care for their life. We should enter every conversation knowing that everyone has broken and hurting parts of their lives. Loving our neighbors is about seeing how

they may experience pain and how we can be a comfort to them.

Tell Jesus about Your Neighbors

Tell Jesus that you want to see your neighbors through his eyes. Pray for them and the things they are going through. Tell Jesus that you want to carry his heart for your neighbors.

Tell Your Neighbors about Jesus

When the time is right, tell your neighbors about Jesus in a personal way. It should not be confrontational, nor should it lead to conflict. Our role is to bring peace into people's lives and situations. We are not sharing Jesus with our neighbors to win an argument or to have them say a prayer of salvation. Our primary task is to help people see Jesus. A simple glimpse will often leave people wanting to pursue him more. Only God can move the heart of people. Our role is to sow the seed. God's role is to bring the harvest.

To watch a video about how one person's dedication to Jesus and life of love can impact thousands, scan the QR code.





ORGANIC DISCIPLES STUDY GUIDE

by Kevin and Sherry Harney

INTRODUCTION

Imagine a world where every person who follows Jesus grows in spiritual maturity with each passing day. Picture neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and homes influenced by Christians who love, pray for, and serve those who have not yet encountered the Savior. What could happen if every Christian became a passionate missionary right where God has placed them?

The dream of God is shockingly simple yet rarely realized. Sadly, sometimes the more Christians learn, grow, and engage in church activities, the less they move out into the world with the love of Jesus. For some, the more they learn about Jesus, the less they talk about him with their friends and family members who are not yet his followers.

The goal of the Love Your Neighbor kit by Every Home for Christ is to help Christians recognize that the more we walk with Jesus and grow in

faith, the more we should shine his light in the world. Each of God's children, whatever our age or place of spiritual development, can carry his grace, truth, and good news to the world.

This eight-session study was written by Kevin and Sherry Harney and edited in partnership with Every Home for Christ to help you and your church grow deeper in love with Jesus and then share your faith with people in your life that God loves and wants to draw to his heart.

If you want to go deeper into any biblical themes in this study, you can find many free resources on the Organic Outreach International website at organicoutreach.org.

May God richly bless you and your church as you grow in Jesus and go with Jesus into the world he loves!



SESSION 1

FOUNDATIONS

Writers, storytellers, and moviemakers through the ages have tried to capture the glory of the perfect couple. In almost every case, there is drama, tension, intrigue, and conflict. Relationships are complex and never seem to go as smoothly as we would hope. Every generation and culture has examples of these.

What is true in stories told through the centuries is also true of the story God is writing in the lives of his children today. Our Creator wants to marry two powerful and world-changing ideas in our souls.

1. **Discipleship:** This is the journey of becoming more like Jesus, growing in spiritual maturity, and helping others to do the same. We travel this road on our own and in community with other believers.
2. **Outreach:** This is the adventure of sharing the grace and love of Jesus Christ and the message of salvation found in him alone. We go on this evangelism adventure in our personal lives and in partnership with God's family.

When leaders of the religious establishment asked Jesus, “Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” he said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” (*Matt. 22:36–39*).

Grow in love with God (discipleship) and love your neighbor with God’s heart (outreach). For some reason, Christians can miss this beautiful and essential pairing established by God from the beginning. Every part of our spiritual journey should draw us closer to the heart of Jesus. As this happens, the Holy Spirit propels us outward with God’s grace to those who are broken, hurting, rebellious, and wandering.

Reflect

1. Read Galatians 5:22–23. Why is the fruit of the Spirit essential as we grow in maturity? What dangers might we encounter if we grow in spiritual maturity but do not exhibit the fruit of the Spirit?
2. Read Ephesians 4:14–16. What are some results of seeking to grow up in faith and become a mature disciple of Jesus?
3. Read 2 Timothy 2:2. Think about a person you desire to help draw closer to Jesus and walk in a richer and more dynamic relationship with

the Savior. What are you doing to help this person grow? How is it going?

Pray

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow deeper in faith and increase in love for those still wandering far from Jesus, like sheep without a shepherd.



SESSION 2

BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

The Bible is the Holy Spirit-breathed truth of heaven. Jesus is the living Word of God, and while he walked this earth, he loved the written Word. He knew it, quoted it, and let the Scriptures speak to and through him. As his followers, we need to know the Scriptures, love them, and follow what they teach. As we do this, the world will see an unchanging message of truth in a world of radical uncertainty. God's Word will send us out on Jesus' mission and teach us how to live in the world so that Jesus' light shines brightly.

The Bible is without rival the top-selling book in the history of the world. Many modern lists of bestselling books exclude the Bible because it would top the lists every month of every year. The Bible has been translated into more than 700 languages, and the New Testament exists in another 1,550 languages. No other book comes close to that! Even free apps offer the Bible in an electronic format that can be read in multiple translations on a phone, tablet, or computer. The Bible has never been more readily available than it is today.

We should ask, "Are people growing in Bible engagement and knowledge? Are Christians

reading or listening to the Scriptures? Are we growing to love this holy book breathed by the Spirit of God? Are we meditating on biblical truth and letting it shape our lives?”

Most of us own a Bible. The question is, “Does the truth of the Bible guide our heart and life?”

Reflect

1. Read Matthew 27:45–50 and Psalm 22:1. In his moment of deepest pain and anguish, Jesus cried the words of Scripture from the depths of his soul. What do you learn from the Savior’s example in this account? How can you internalize Scripture so that it is in your heart and on your lips when you face challenging times?
2. Read Psalm 119:97–100. What does it look like when a follower of Jesus loves the Bible? What can help us love God’s written truth at a deeper level?
3. Read James 1:22–25. What dangers might we face if we increase our understanding of Scripture but fail to follow what it says and share the message of Scripture with others? If we don’t let the truth of the Bible shape how we live, what damage can this do to nonbelievers who are watching Christians with a critical eye?

Pray

Ask God to bring his Holy Word alive in your heart so that you naturally share his truth with people who are still wandering far from Jesus.



SESSION 3

PASSIONATE PRAYER

Jesus constantly communicated with his Father and prayed for his followers and those wandering far from fellowship with God. As disciples, praying should be like breathing. We can live in intimate communication with the God who made us and loves us. As we grow in the spiritual marker of passionate prayer, we will find ourselves praying for and with those who still need to discover and embrace the amazing grace of Jesus.

God actually hears your prayers. What a staggering idea! The King of Kings, the Creator of heaven and earth, the almighty God, is aware of every whisper of your soul and cry of your heart. Among the voices of the 8 billion people living on the planet, God recognizes yours!

God cares about your joys, needs, hurts, and dreams. What a thought! God's heart breaks over your sadness, and he delights when you tell him about your joy.

God answers your prayers and acts on your requests. This is a mind-bending idea — a God who hears us, cares about us, has the power to act, and then actually shows up. When you pray for things that honor God and align with his

loving will, you can see world-changing prayers answered.

When we believe in the power of prayer, we not only pray for our needs, but we begin praying for those who are far from Jesus and need to encounter the Savior who loves them and died on a cross to offer them forgiveness.

Reflect

1. Read Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:15–19; Mark 7:33–35; and Mark 14:32–36. Jesus prayed all through the day in a variety of situations. What are ways you can incorporate prayer into the flow of a typical day?
2. Read Luke 6:12–16; John 11:38–44; and Luke 22:39–46. These are just a few examples of Jesus praying before big decisions and in the big moments in his life. What do you learn from Jesus' habit of calling out to the Father in the big moments?
3. Read Matthew 6:5–8. Jesus gave specific and powerful direction for us to prayerfully reach out to the world with his message of grace. What did Jesus call us to pray? How can we increase our prayers for people who need to encounter Jesus?

Pray

Pray for people in your life that are not following Jesus. Ask God to give you opportunities to love them and share the great news of Jesus in natural ways.



SESSION 4

WHOLEHEARTED WORSHIP

Our God is worthy of worship! Disciples delight in giving praise, glory, and honor to the only one who deserves it. When we grow in faith, worship flows from our hearts and lips. Every experience can be a time for worshipping in Spirit and in truth.

When God's people gather, the Holy Spirit is present in life-changing ways. And some of the greatest longings of the human heart, including the hearts of nonbelievers, are satisfied when people worship God.

We all hunger for community and community happens in worship. We long for a sense of the transcendent and an awareness that there is something bigger than us. Worship satisfies this longing because God is powerfully present when his people worship. Human beings are made for worship, and when they find the source of this longing and encounter the one true God who deserves their praise, something happens in their souls.

Worship is for believers in Jesus, no doubt.
But worship is also for those who are seeking

after God but have not found him. Inviting an unbeliever to be among God's people as they worship their Lord in Spirit and in truth might be just the thing that draws a lost person home and into the arms of Jesus.

Reflect

1. Read Mark 11:9–10; Mark 15:39; Luke 24:52; and John 1:49. When Jesus walked on this earth, people commonly responded to him by worshiping him. What are some of the ways people expressed worship toward Jesus? How did he react to these offerings of praise and devotion?
2. Read Mark 11:15–17; Luke 4:5–8; and John 4:19–25. Jesus taught his followers to be people committed to worship. What lessons did Jesus share with those who wanted to grow as worshipers?
3. Sometimes we limit our understanding of worship to a set time and place: in a church building for an hour on Sunday. Worship is bigger and far more beautiful. In what ways can we worship God in the normal flow of a week? How can this be a witness to people who are not yet Christians?

Pray

Invite the Holy Spirit to draw you to deeper places of worship when you gather in church, in your home, and everywhere you go.



SESSION 5

HUMBLE SERVICE

Jesus left the glory of heaven and came to serve us. His disciples joyfully serve their Savior, his church, and the world he loves. When we care as Jesus does, the world sees a vision of the servant Savior and is willing to hear our stories of who Jesus is and how he loves.

Bob was an ordinary guy. From the late 1940s until the end of the Chinese Civil War, he worked with Youth for Christ and was part of several evangelistic rallies in China. While there, Bob was deeply moved by the devastation of homes, schools, infrastructure, and lives. Before he left for the United States of America, he began a monthly practice of sending five dollars to a needy child back in China.

Bob decided to start an organization to help children in some of the neediest places in the world. He wanted to connect caring sponsors with struggling kids and facilitate their monthly support to provide food, medical care, basic physical needs, and access to the gospel. In 1950, Bob launched a ministry called World Vision.

If you ever wonder whether humble service can open the door for sharing the good news of Jesus,

remember the story of Robert (Bob) Pierce's life. Because he served in the name of Jesus, more than 124 million children have heard the gospel. Between 3 and 4 million children are sponsored annually and receive care for their physical and spiritual needs. More lives have been touched than Bob dreamed of when he started serving a needy child in China.

Humble service is not the end of evangelism. It is the door that opens the way to speak words of life, tell Jesus' story, and share the good news of the hope that is found in him alone.

Reflect

1. Jesus made it clear that his service is an example for us to follow. In what ways are you seeking to serve others with a humble heart? What seems to get in the way of you living self-sacrificially?
2. Read Matthew 5:13–16. Why is it important for churches and Christians to find ways to share Jesus while they are serving people in their communities? What might people miss if we offer kind deeds but never point to Jesus or share his story?
3. What practical ways can we serve where we work, go to school, live, play, and shop?

Pray

Ask God to inspire you and the people in your church to greater acts of service offered in the name of Jesus. Pray that nonbelievers in your community will see these acts of service and open their hearts to Jesus.



SESSION 6

JOYFUL GENEROSITY

Jesus gave all he had and all he was for us. With divine generosity, he left glory, came to earth, took our sins, and died in our place. Now he calls his disciples to walk in his footsteps. As we give with generous and joy-filled hearts, the world can see a picture of God's love.

Kata was living on the streets and barely surviving. She was open to religious ideas, but she did not have faith in Jesus. One day Kata wandered into a church. She was hurting, broken, and it would have been easy for people to reject her. She did not know how to act in church, and her language was as dirty as her body.

Thankfully, the people in this church reached out with generous love. They offered her help and friendship and welcomed her into the church family (long before she had faith in Jesus). One Sunday morning, the pastor shared the simple and beautiful story of Jesus, and Kata placed her faith in him. She was truly changed.

Kata got a job. She rented a small room so she could get off the streets. Then, because she had received so much, she grew in joyful generosity. In the rainy season, Kata went out and bought some

simple blue tarps and made tents to help some of her friends who were still homeless stay out of the rain. She found joy in giving to others as Jesus had given to her!

Reflect

1. How have you experienced Jesus' generosity toward you?
2. Read Malachi 3:8–12 and Luke 6:38. When God promises a blessing in response to our generosity, it means far more than just dollars and cents. What are some of the different blessings a person might receive when they grow in joyful generosity?
3. Why does the life of a joyfully generous Christian catch the attention of nonbelievers who are spiritually curious?

Pray

Thank God for how he has been generous to you, and pray that your heart will increase in generosity so people will see Jesus in you.



SESSION 7

CONSISTENT COMMUNITY

God exists in an eternal, perfect trinitarian community. Jesus prioritized relationships when he walked this earth and called his disciples to live in a consistent, loving community. When we walk in fellowship with God and each other, people will see that we have what their hearts long for. This kind of community draws people toward the only one who can heal their hearts, bind their wounds, and satisfy their hunger to belong.

Jesus was and is the King of Kings, the Lord of Glory, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Son of God, and the Savior of the world. Yet he calls us friends. Jesus shared meals with both the powerful and the outcast. He conversed with his closest friends and strangers on the street. He touched the sick, and they reached out and touched him too. Our King left a heavenly throne and lived among the people he loved. Community was his passion and intimacy his practice.

In a world where so many people feel left out or ostracized, the call to consistent community is a source of hope and healing. The God who exists in the eternal community of trinitarian harmony

not only models the beauty of relational intimacy, he invites us to come near. When Jesus died on the cross, the curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom to show us that we are invited into the holiest place — his presence — anytime! What a timely message for our broken world. Jesus, the King of Glory, invites you to come near. He loves community! His door, arms, and heart are always open.

Reflect

1. Read Matthew 4:18–22. What did the call to follow Jesus mean for his first disciples? The focal point of Jesus' call was to follow him and be with him. What should following Jesus and being with him look like in our lives today?
2. Read Genesis 1:26–28 and Romans 12:3–8. In his creation of humanity and the church, God made it clear that we are made for connection with each other and with him. Why do you think God hardwired us for community? Why do so many people resist his call to live in community?
3. Read Mark 12:29–31. What did Jesus say are the two most important things his followers should do with their time and their lives? Think of one practical way you need to grow in loving community with God and one way you feel the Lord wants you to grow in community with your neighbors.

Pray

Thank God for the gift of community you experience in your local church, and pray that visitors who don't believe in Jesus will be drawn to the warmth and goodness of the community you experience.



SESSION 8

ORGANIC OUTREACH

God is always the first to reach out. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son as a sacrifice for our sins. When Jesus walked this earth, he extended grace to every person he met. We who follow Jesus are to love people as he does. We carry the best news in human history. Our calling is to share the love and gospel of Jesus freely.

Nearly every business, company, or organization has a simple statement of why they exist. They want to crystalize their mission so everyone understands why they do what they do. Often, these brief and poignant declarations can keep an organization focused.

Many churches have mission statements. Here are examples:

1. Inspiring people to follow Jesus and fearlessly change the world.
2. Loving God and loving people.
3. To help as many people as possible become totally committed to Jesus Christ.

You get the idea. Mission statements are a way to declare in one phrase or brief sentence who we

are and what we do. This concept is nothing new. More than 2,000 years ago, Jesus did the same thing. Listen closely to Jesus' single-sentence summary of why he came into the world: *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10).

As his followers, we should find out what Jesus focused on and make it our passion. Jesus loves lost sheep. His heart breaks for them. He came not to offer a vague idea of salvation. He left glory to save lost people and bring them home to his love and grace.

Reflect

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50–57. What did Jesus accomplish through his life, death, and resurrection? Since this is true, what message do we have for a broken, fearful, anxious, and conflicted world?
2. Read Matthew 28:19–20 and Acts 1:8. Jesus called his followers to tell lost people about his love, grace, and truth. Why do so many Christians struggle to fulfill this clear call of their Savior? What gets in the way of us sharing our faith with joyful frequency?
3. Incredible power is unleashed when a Christian tells the story of how they became a follower of Jesus. Within our story is always the story of Jesus. Who is one person you want to share your story with?

Pray

Ask God for a courageous heart and opportunities to share your story of faith with someone you love that is not yet a follower of Jesus.



CONCLUSION

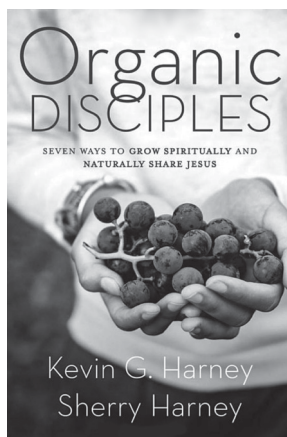
Dear Friends,

This study guide is designed to fit all the items Every Home for Christ has included in the Love Your Neighbor pack. We pray you will grow in faith and go with Jesus into the world with his good news. May the love of Jesus fill you and overflow to every person you encounter.

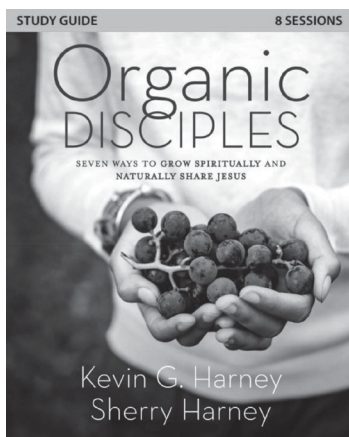
In the joy of Jesus,
Kevin and Sherry Harney

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If you want to go deeper into the topics found in this study and learn more about how to grow as an Organic Disciple, you will find many free resources on the Organic Outreach International website at ***organicoutreach.org***.



For continued encouragement and to access new digital resources, scan the QR code.



