



Community and Social Justice Support Nights Neighborhood: Who Are My Neighbors?

I. Preparation

This discussion requires a two-hour block of time from each person on some day prior to the community night. Each community member (support people too, if possible) should spend 30-45 minutes walking around the neighborhood on your own, paying attention to what you see and how you feel. Talk with the neighbors or others who may be outside. You do not all have to do this on the same day. You can each walk all over the neighborhood, or you can divide it up among you by blocks. Focus on a small area.

When you return home, take about an hour to think and write about what you saw. You may spend some time on one particular detail or many. What did you see? Whom did you see? Whom did you meet? What was new to you? Where did you feel comfortable, where disconnected? Did your perception of the neighborhood change in any ways? What did you learn?

II. Exercise

After prayer, begin by having each person give highlights of their walk and reflection.

Take a few minutes of quiet as a group to think about and/or write about these questions:

1. How do you describe your neighborhood to yourself?
2. Who are the key people?
3. What are the important areas of activity?
4. Where do neighbors work, pray, play, go to school?
5. What types of stores are there? What do they sell? Who owns them? Who shops at them?
6. How would you describe your neighborhood to your parents, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and other volunteers?

Take the rest of the time for open discussion on these questions. Look at how the volunteers/support people can become more active in the neighborhood. You may even want to brainstorm ideas for activities with the neighborhood residents.

III. Close: Shared prayer