**Hope for Your Neighbors**

**Pastor Online Devotion #2**

Romans 12:10, Philippians 2:4, James 5:16, I Peter 3:15

**The Point**: **We Can Show Our Love For Jesus By Being A Good Neighbor**

**Motivation : Be a Good Neighbor**

Begin with a personal greeting and any specific church related items that would be of interest to the total audience.

To get the audience engaged in the topic of the devotion, tell a personal experience when you were younger related to your neighbors. An example of this would be…

*“The Bible has a lot to say about being a good neighbor. When I was about five years old, I lived to play outside. I had a neighbor named Bryson. One of my favorite things to do was to play outside in Bryson’s treehouse. Now, looking back, this little wood shack on stilts wasn’t much, but we loved it. We invented all sorts of games that revolved around being in that treehouse. Of course, we also argued from time to time, as little boys tend to do. I can remember one day, in particular, in which both of us had laid claim to the treehouse. I’m not sure which one of our imaginative scenarios we were acting out, but I do know that it involved only one of us being up there. Push came to shove, literally, and I was the lone man left standing in the treehouse. As I’m sure you can surmise, my victory was short-lived. Bryson ran crying back to his mom and it didn’t take but a minute for my mom to find out as well. Bryson ended up in the treehouse and I ended up in trouble. Safe to say — on that day — I was not being a good neighbor.”*

**Examination: HOPE Comes From Within**

Say, “*As Christians, we are the only ones that really know HOPE! Part of being a good neighbor is sharing this HOPE we have with others*.” Remind your audience that we are to make our HOPE known to everyone and our HOPE is Jesus. Jesus is the only HOPE for the world as well as your neighbors.

So how can we help our neighbors know the **HOPE** we have?

**H** – Honor Romans 12:10, *“Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Outdo one another in showing honor.”* (CSB) We can love our neighbors and show them genuine concern. When we demonstrate our faith we share the love of Christ. Our goal should be for no one to outdo us in our acts of kindness and love.

**O** – Offer Philippians 2:4, *“Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”* (CSB) These days we are very focused on taking care of self and our own. Don’t believe me? Just go to the store! Yes we are to take care of ourselves and we are to take care of our family. Nobody should be better caretakers of their families than Christians BUT we are also to make sure others have what they need too. Doing something as simple as offering to help others in a time of crisis makes a counter-cultural statement and provides you with a platform to point to Jesus.

**P** – Pray James 5:16, *“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.”* (CSB) We should be praying for our neighbors. Ask them how you can pray for them, send a card with your cell number and/or email asking for prayer requests, make sign with your cell number and post it in your yard inviting your neighbors to let you know how you can pray for them. It will be good for you and them!

**E** – Engage 1 Peter 3:15, *“but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, (be)ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”* When we love people, demonstrate our faith in acts of kindness and pray for them, they will begin to ask questions. The BIG question that they will ask is WHY? And when they do be ready to tell them what Jesus has done for you!

**Application: Show Hope Outwardly**

As you bring your devotion to close provide for your audience a personal example of what you or your church has done to provide hope for your neighbors. An example of this would be…

*“Every day my wife and I go for a walk in our neighborhood. I’m so thankful that we can still do this. As we walk by our neighbor’s houses we pray for them. We’ve even put personal notes in a in place where they will see them and find them. I put my contact information on the note and they’ve begun to call, text and email me with their prayer needs. I look forward to the day when I’ll get to see them in person and tell them more about the hope I’ve found in Jesus.”*

**Take-a-way: Bring Hope To Your Neighbor**

At the conclusion of your devotion be specific in your challenge and call for them to make a commitment. As you know, a commitment made public is one that will more than likely be kept! Ask them to pray and ask God to show them what they are to do to provide hope for their neighbors. Ask them, *“Will you go on a prayer walk? Will you offer to get groceries for your elderly neighbor? Will you love that unlovable neighbor? What is it that God wants you to do to share the hope we have in Christ with your neighbors?”*

The last thing you need to do is to ask them to let you know what they are going to do. Provide some way for them to contact you. It may be a reply in the comment line or the conversation button. You may choose to provide your email or even cell number. Ask them to make public their commitment to share the hope of Christ with their neighbors. Also, tell them you want to hear how it goes too.