

JOINING GOD IN THEN NEIGHBORHOOD

What is God doing out there? – We want to be part of it!

What is *Joining God in the Neighborhood*?

A time of listening and learning for your church becoming attentive to what God is doing in the world around you, and deciding how you will join in.

*When two disciples asked him, "where are you staying?"
"Come," Jesus replied, "and you will see." John 1:38-39 (NIV)*

How will it help our church?

Joining God in the Neighborhood will help your church:

- Follow Jesus into the world
- Listen and learn with your neighbors in the wider community.
- Move beyond assumptions to real stories, real faces and shared learning.
- Develop a common view about things you are seeing and learning
- Act on what you are learning.
- Claim real ministry and relationship opportunities.

What is involved?

This is about listening, learning together, and embracing ministry priorities for the sake of the world God loves. You will receive resources and support to help you:

- Get Ready:* Learn about the process and design how you will engage your congregation.
- Design and Engage:* Choose from a range of learning and engaging activities for your congregation to experience, and then implement them.
- Put into Practice:* Begin to set priorities and take actions in light of what you are learning together.

Where do we start?

View the video tutorial introducing you to the resources of *Joining God in the Neighborhood*.

Read about the “Discovery Practices” below, describing the activities that make up this powerful learning experience.

Questions? Speak with a Center coach to learn more and explore how it would work for your church.

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Purchase the set of *Joining God in the Neighborhood* resources. This includes the full set of video tutorials and downloads for all Discovery Practices. A Center coach will support you in choosing options and tailoring a design for using them in your church. *Joining God in the Neighborhood* is available for \$200.

What are the Discovery practices?

Discovery Practices are focused engagements with your congregation, your faith, and your wider community. Discovery Practices are easily tailored to fit with the unique life and dynamics of your church and its setting. Here is an overview:

Practice #1: A Spiritual Practice – Connecting our Story with God’s Story. A foundational congregation study process discovering afresh God’s “dream” for creation and the church -- *Behold: There is a New Creation* (6 sessions). This formation experience supports discovering your place within God’s dream to bring about a “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Downloads:

- *Behold: There is a New Creation* spiritual practice resource
- *Facilitator’s Guide*

Practice #2: Field Trips – Options for Discovering your Community. A range of brief experiences for congregational members to encounter your community with fresh eyes and ears.

- Download: Resources for Field Trips

Practice #3: Listening and Learning – Conversations with a Purpose. This practice introduces one-on-one conversations with people we already know in our neighborhoods and community to listen and learn. The goal is to discover hopes, concerns, and needs in relationship.

- Download: Questions to Engage with Community Leaders

Practice #4: Community dialogue – Gathering (your wider community) in Conversation. Church leaders and members together with representatives of the wider community share wisdom and experience looking at their community together. An experience of mutual conversation and learning. Building shared understanding of local issues (opportunities, challenges, concerns, assets, needs) that have an impact on the people who live here.

- Download: Community Dialogue Design

Practice #5: Congregational Dialogue – Sharing and Capturing Learnings. A congregational dialogue event to share what you have seen and learned through this time of *Joining God in the Neighborhood*. Facilitates the integration and learning from all the previous practices. This is a key step to discerning together areas of priority that will lead to action.

- Download: Congregational Dialogue Event Design

Practice #6: Acting on what We've Learned. Leaders guide the church to respond to what was learned through discovery practices. Planning to initiate new ministry or refine existing ministry and practice in light of new perspectives, new relationships and new focus.

- Download: Acting on What We've Learned Group Conversation

Coaching support

- Coaching support is INCLUDED upfront to assist in tailoring a design for using these resources with your church.
- Additional coaching support for clarifying, adapting, and implementing Discovery practices for your church. This coaching support is available for \$200.



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