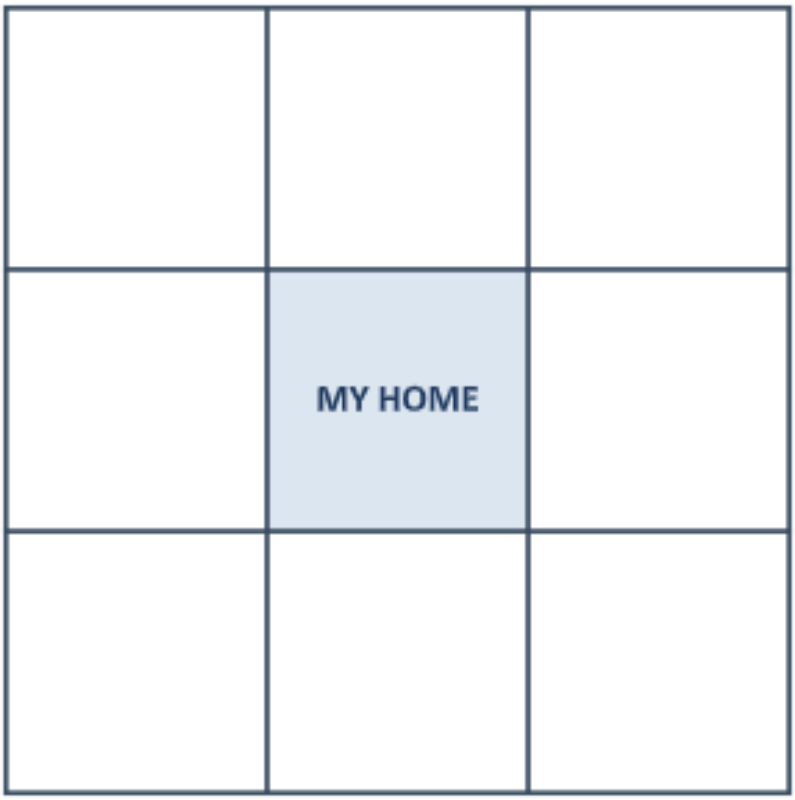
Who Is My Neighbor

Write the names of the people who live closest to you in the eight surrounding boxes.
Think about your neighbor as you do this study.



1. The lawyer asks Jesus, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" What is wrong with the assumption behind his question? According to Scripture, how do we receive eternal life? See Ephesians 2:8–9.

2. Luke tells us that the lawyer asked, "Who is my neighbor?" because he wanted to justify himself and make his neighbor group smaller. How was he trying to limit the number of people he was responsible for loving? In what ways are you tempted to do the same?

3. Both the priest and the Levite saw the injured man but passed by on the other side. What reasons might cause you to avoid someone who needs our help?

4. The Samaritan moved toward the injured man, changed his plans, used his resources, and made sure the man received continued care. What do his actions teach us about the meaning of mercy? How is showing mercy different from simply feeling sympathy?

5. The sermon reminds us that Jesus is the true neighbor to broken sinners. How is Jesus' rescue of us reflected in the Samaritan's care for the wounded man? How does Christ's mercy and forgiveness free and empower us to show mercy to others?

6. Think about the eight individuals or families that live closest to you. How many do you know beyond a casual greeting? What is one specific step you can take this week to know, serve, or show mercy to one of your neighbors?