Notes

May 28 2017

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Art of Neighboring: Crossing the Lake with Jesus
Group Discussion Questions

Read Mark 5:1-20
This is a great story about taking the power of Jesus into the dark places of our neighborhoods. How have you experienced resistance or opposition when trying to be the neighbor God has called you to be?

Review your neighborhood map. How are you doing on names? Have you made any new connections or strengthened any old ones? Is there a neighbor you feel God drawing you into a deeper relationship with?

In this story, Jesus has crossed the Sea of Galilee with His disciples and encountered two men who we're told are, "*coming from the tombs.*" Think about that. People living in the place where dead bodies lie decaying. Imagine the stench. Plus, in the Jewish culture this was considered THE MOST defiled, unclean place of all.

Where are the dark places of your life? A failed or struggling marriage, disease, loneliness, addiction, anxiety, depression, or stress?

What are some of the dark places your neighbors are living in? What does it look like for you to bring the power and hope of Jesus into those places?

Now notice how the demons address Jesus. Who is in control? How does that change your approach to the tombs in your life? How should that change your posture as you walk into hard places with other people?

"*They pleaded with him (Jesus) to leave their region.*" One commentator I read said, "They are more at home with the demons they know than with a power they cannot comprehend." How does this describe our experience when we neighbor as Jesus-followers? What should be our response?

Mark 5:18-20
Mark ends this story by calling this healed/restored man to share the hope he's found in Jesus in his neighborhood. If you are a follower of Jesus, you've been commissioned in the same way. What is the next step for you to live into that?