

I. Introduction:

This chapter introduces the third life pattern of an Insider, serving others. The authors argue that we should model our lives after the Good Samaritan. In the course of the Samaritan's normal life, he encountered someone in need and he helped him. That's it. He didn't share the gospel. A neighbor is someone you encounter in your life. God does not necessarily call us to serve everyone on this planet. That would be impossible for us to do. But he does call us to serve our neighbors, the people we encounter on a regular basis, whether this is our coworkers, classmates, or our actual neighbors. By loving our neighbors we are spreading the gospel without even saying a word.

II. Chapter 13: The Third Life Pattern of An Insider: Serving Others

1. What specific practical ways do the authors give us to "serve others"? Can you think of other ways the authors didn't mention?

A part of loving our neighbors is letting them serve us. Serving needs to be mutual if it is to be healthy. We can create the opportunity for that. We can borrow our neighbors' skills when we need them; or get them to help when we need one more strong back or let them loan us some salt because we've run out. Friendships are forged in the mutuality of giving and receiving.

2. Why is it important not only to serve others, but to let others serve us? Are you more eager to serve or be served? Why?

I have seen many Christians get this far into a great evening-and then blow it. It is because they feel it will all be a waste if they don't get in, at least, a little commercial for Jesus! It is better to relax and enjoy your guests, with no other agenda. The words can come later, as ultimately all topics lead to Jesus.

3. When we practice hospitality, do we have an agenda? Should we have an agenda?

There needs to be small talk, the kind that happens around a meal-about about people and things-before deeper things can be discussed with any freedom. I find it difficult to invite an unbeliever to read the Bible with me before we've eaten together.

4. Is small talk required? What about people who don't like small talk?

IV. Application & Prayer Points:

5. Sit down right now, and talk with your spouse and plan a night to invite someone over. Put it down on the calendar and invite a neighbor to come over to your house. Or invite a coworker out to lunch.
6. Pray over the plans you've just made. Share with the group who you plan on inviting and pray together that you'll have the courage and the time to execute these plans.