



NEIGHBORHOOD Church



THE PRACTICE OF PLACE

WEEK 3: A COLLABORATING CHURCH

HOW THIS PRACTICE GUIDE IS DESIGNED:

Each week will focus on the Scripture passage from this previous week's teaching, walking you through four steps: P.R.A.Y.: Pause, Read & Reflect, Ask, and Yield.

PAUSE:

We begin with a time of silence, pausing to be still, remembering God's presence, and praying with God's word from a psalm or scripture.

READ & REFLECT:

We will consider the way of Jesus and the truth of Jesus, reflecting on where he inviting us to go with him.

ASK:

We will pray through a question that this practice invites us to into, wrestling through our resistance and yielding to the freedom and life Jesus intends for us.

YIELD:

We will end each week with several yielding practices, ways that we can position ourselves to allow Jesus to lead us in our practice of his way and truth each week.

This guide works best in community, with a group of people around you to learn from, challenge, and hold you accountable.

PAUSE

Take sixty seconds and pause, slowing your breathing and silently remembering God's presence with you today.

Allow this prayer from the psalms inspire a prayer in you as we begin:

*"O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.."*

Psalm 131:1-2

READ & REFLECT

Read this passage twice out loud together:

John 21:15-22

What does "success" look like in your family, your culture, or your past or present assumptions about the way of Jesus?

How does Jesus' vision for success challenge those assumptions?

When are you tempted to say "Lord, what about him / her / them?"

Comparison and criticism lead us to pull back from people and to neglect the work that God has uniquely given us to do. What is the work that Jesus is asking you to do but you have been neglecting by comparing yourself to others success?

ASK

Take a few moments and silently ask these questions in prayer with God, paying attention to what he brings to your mind and heart:

- Does my vision of "success" line up with yours, Jesus?
- Where am I comparing myself or criticizing someone else rather than following you?

YIELD

Being a neighborhood church means dying to our ideas of success or security that are built on comparison or criticism and instead focusing on what we can contribute and choosing to collaborate with others in the mission of Jesus.

- **First Step:** Identify the individual or group that you tend to compare yourself to and/or criticize. Next time you find yourself drawn to comparison or criticism, instead ask God to bless and build up their life and work.
- **Second Step:** Commit to being in community with others and bearing with one another across differences in this next season of life.
- **Reach Step:** Find where you can collaborate with others through serving and giving back.