



LIVE THE SIX:

*Learning to Live as an
Everyday Missionary*

Parking Lot Amnesia

I call it “parking lot amnesia.” I’m not referring to the times you think your car has been stolen at the mall (because you exited on the wrong side). I have another name for that. I mean something else by the term. Chances are you’ve experienced it several times over throughout your life; it goes like this. You’re walking out of church on Sunday after a great morning, but by the time you get to the car, whatever happened in the building already feels long gone. It doesn’t matter how good the music was, how energetic the choir was, how “on” the preacher was, there’s something mysterious—nefarious—that happens on the short walk from the church building to your car ... all of it just seems to fizzle away. You start thinking about lunch, about the unfinished chores to be completed before a new work week rolls around. The kids start arguing. “Will you stop hitting your sister!” You notice your front tire looks a little low, and it’s still 10 days from payday. The cloud of serenity, inspiration and conviction you were enveloped in just moments ago is replaced by a whirlwind of stress, panic and monotony. Church is over. Welcome back to regular life.

But don’t you wonder if there’s more to being a Christian than enjoying (sometimes enduring) one sacred hour each Sunday? Has the practice of weekly (or at least a couple times a month) church attendance become the only thing that distinguishes us from the growing number of people in our communities who claim no religion at all? Of course not! Don’t be silly! Maybe you also say some prayers before meals and at bedtime too. I once knew a guy in college whose family prayed *before* and *after* every meal, that seemed like some serious overachievement to me. Is *that* our idea of an *exemplary* Christian life? Maybe you also try to watch your language. You treat people with respect. You abide by a stringent moral code. Is that what Jesus meant when he said, “You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”? (See Acts 1:8.) I seriously doubt it. Deep down, so do you.

Couldn’t there be more? Shouldn’t there be?

Go beyond One Day

Quick, think of your dream job. Seriously, do it. Speak the title out loud. Maybe it’s the job you already have, if so lucky you! But if not, imagine yourself at a party in a crowd of strangers, and when they ask you the inevitable, “and what do you do for a living?” imagine being able to announce that you have your dream job. What would *that* be like?

Think deeper now. What is it about that (or any) particular job that makes it dreamy? Is it the pay? The flexibility? Does it involve travel? Does it bring you greater freedom? Respect? What about impact? Does it enable you to have lasting significance?

Regardless of what pays your bills, you were intended, better yet *entrusted*, with the most important job on the planet. It’s better than running a Fortune 100 company. It’s better than being the president of the United States—although I should go on record to say that *that’s* a job I’d never want. It’s better than getting to be Superman and saving the world from Lex Luthor. This job has everything you could want: prestige, impact, a great boss, and eternal rewards! But tragically, few of us

ever accept this incredible position because it requires something we're not very comfortable with. It requires going *beyond one day*. That's right, to do this job, you have to be willing to work at it for more than just Sundays. (I do know this may sound hypocritical coming from a pastor since everyone knows we *really* only work one day a week.) As Christians, we've been so trained to equate our Christian life with going to church on Sunday that we completely miss the *real* job that God has entrusted to us from the day of our baptism. Ephesians 2: 4-9 explains:

But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Right before this section the writer, Paul, talked about how we are all walking dead people because of our sins. Of course, our hearts are still beating and we are still breathing, but we are dead in regard to our relationship with God. We are unable to help ourselves—totally incapable of returning to Him. That's a product of our sinful nature. But in these verses he described how Jesus changed all that. Now read those above verses again. Read them over and over until you feel like you understand them. Contained in those words is a life-changing truth.

Paul tells us that no matter who we are, what we do for a living, or what we've done in the past—because Jesus died and rose—we are living a new kind of life. And it's not because of anything that we've done. It's because God is an amazing, giving, loving God who delights in making dead people live again. Paul was passionate about this because that's what he experienced in his own life. He was once a mess of a person. From the outside he looked successful, solid and devout, but inside he was full of anger and pride. He used to go around arresting people who believed in Jesus. He even had some of them killed. But Jesus changed all that. Jesus gave Paul a new life, one that he didn't deserve.

Ephesians 2:8-9 is one of the clearest texts in Scripture that says we can do NOTHING to win God's favor, that our new lives are a PURE GIFT! But for many of us, even if we've heard these words before, even if we can recite them, we often forget about the *next* verse—the all-important verse 10.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Notice the wordplay. That Paul is a clever writer. We are God's *workmanship*, created to do good *works*.

Hear that? In Jesus Christ, you are made alive again, saved, reborn, not so you can go to church, not so you can go to heaven someday! Okay, *also* for those things, but what Paul understood is that we are made alive again to *do good works*! It's what you were (re)created to do. It's the reason Jesus saved you. It's why He went through the ordeal of the cross and a miraculous resurrection. And here's why this matters: until you start doing what you're CREATED to do, you'll never feel right.

I grew up a carpenter's son, which means that although *I'm* not particularly handy, I've got an impressive set of tools, thanks to my dad. This is both a blessing and a curse. My wife sees all those tools in our garage, and she actually starts believing I'm capable of any and all the projects she wants done around the house. I'm definitely not. So I listen with great interest as she describes what she'd like to see done, and then I wait until my dad comes for a visit. I must say, there are no major drawbacks to having a dad who is handy, except for one small thing: every project we start together he *insists* I buy some new tool for it. His mantra is "You gotta have the right tool for the job." That's fine if you're a carpenter and you make your living off this stuff, but what it means for me is that I have a garage full of tools I've only used once. Now, occasionally, I will attempt a project on my own, but I flat out refuse to buy any specialty tools for it. This means I have nearly poked my eye out, come close to cutting my limbs off, and have had to superglue gashes in my skin closed again. Father does know best I guess: "You gotta have the right tool for the job." The point? Ingenuity (and frugality) aside, it's always better—and safer—when you use things for what they're made to do! The same is true with you! **Until you get serious about the fact you were created in Christ Jesus to do good works, life will always be wrong. Heck, it might even be dangerous!**

Your New Job

Now maybe at this point you're sensing that to do what you were created to do, it'll require something drastic. Some of you husbands are even pondering the following conversation with your wives:

You say, "Honey I get it now, I was *made* to be a sportswriter. I'm quitting my job!"

She says ... well, she probably won't say anything, but you might want to duck!

Or maybe you're having visions of selling off everything you own at a massive neighborhood-disrupting garage sale, so you can move to a developing country to become the next Mother Teresa. Not so fast! To do what you were created in Christ Jesus to do *could* involve a dramatic change in what you do for a living or where you live—but it doesn't have to. Here's an important distinction: this is about the most important job on earth, but it's not necessarily about your career.

Some of you are thinking, *great, so I've gotta work TWO jobs now? How am I supposed to find the hours in the day to do that?* This, however, is not necessarily the case. To explain what it means to Live the Six, we need to go back and understand a critical biblical teaching: the **priesthood**.

For the Israelites (God's Old Testament people) the priesthood began more or less with Moses. After the Israelites were freed following hundreds of years of living as slaves in Egypt, their leader, Moses, brought them out to the wilderness to introduce them to their God and teach them about living a new kind of life. Again, notice the pattern we see repeated all throughout the Scriptures. God rescues people *from* bad stuff, but he also rescues them *for* new stuff—a new kind of life. So after the Israelites are safely out of Egypt, God tells Moses to say to the Israelites, "Although the whole earth is Mine, you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:5b-6a). Tracking yet? God has a plan to give this newly rescued people really important jobs. He's going to make them into a kingdom of priests. But what does that mean?

A priest is a mediator, even an ambassador. They have the sacred privilege of standing between God and man. They help represent God to people who don't know him and also help represent the people before God. Think about the nature of this promotion. The Israelites are slaves one day, making bricks out of mud for the aggressive Egyptian building program, and the next day they're being invited to the sacred office of the priesthood. They will

1. represent the most-high God, making His ways known to a world that belongs to Him but doesn't know Him, and
2. they will advocate for the concerns and needs of the people around them by bringing those things to the throne of God.

Can you think of a greater honor? So Moses gets the people ready to meet their God to be "sworn in" for their new jobs. They bathe; they change their clothes; they stand at the base of a mountain ready to meet *the God of their rescue* and receive their new positions.

But then something happens, and it doesn't go at all like they expected. The day of their consecration comes and all around the mountain there's thunder, lightning and smoke, paired with the sound of a blaring trumpet. If you've ever heard a fifth-grader learning to play a brass instrument, you understand their terror. The people get nervous. They say to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die" (Exodus 20:19b). Someone once said, "With great power comes great responsibility." Apparently, this new job of priest is more than the Israelites feel they can handle. Moses pleads with them and says, "Don't be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning" (Exodus 20:20b). In other words, Moses says, "Look, I know this new job is a little overwhelming, but it's okay. God is just trying to sober you, to make you ready for the incredible responsibility you're about to take on!" But the people are having none of it. In the end, they make Moses their mediator—their priest.

Though God never allows them to resign from the role as priests and even establishes a "professional priesthood" among the people, the nation as a whole and most individuals in it failed to take the role of priest to heart. They failed to represent God to the other nations, and they failed to bring the concerns of the nations before God's throne. They still held the title but certainly didn't live up to the job description. Then Jesus comes onto the scene, and (spoiler alert!) His exciting and sometimes confusing ministry culminates in His own death and resurrection. And when *that* happens, the invitation to priesthood is made to the people again. Take a look at what the Scriptures say in Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Look also at Hebrews 12:18-25b.

You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks.

For hundreds of years, God’s people lived with priests standing between them and God. Almost across the board, these people refused to be the priests God called them to be. When Jesus arrives, however, He brings the offer back to the table again. Not only does He *invite* us to be priests, this time He declares it to be reality—whether we accept it or not.

Theologians call this, “the priesthood of all believers.” Some of you knew that already and are wondering why I didn’t say so sooner. That’s because we often misapply what this priesthood means. This priesthood isn’t just about you. It’s not just that *you* can access God when *you* need Him when *you* are afraid, lonely, sick, broke or stressed. What it means is that *you* are now called to stand as a priest *for the world*. You are called to

1. represent God to a world that doesn’t know Him and
2. represent the needs of a lost and hurting world before the throne of God.

You See It, You Own it

Do a little self-evaluation right now. Inventory what you worry about, what you spend your day thinking about. Better yet, inventory what you *pray* about. What percentage is about your needs, your concerns, and your problems? How much is about the needs, concerns and problems of other people? Fifty-fifty? I’d be lying if I said that was true of me. It’s probably more like 70/30, or maybe worse!

If we are going to step into this incredible calling that Jesus has entrusted to us to be priests, it starts with owning the needs of the people we see around us. Not just *noticing* needs, but *owning* them—*taking responsibility* for them.

That’s what it means to Live the Six. Instead of thinking of Sundays as your weekly opportunity to worship and serve God, begin to see every minute of every day as an opportunity to serve God by serving the people around you as God’s sacred representative. It’s not about adding more junk into your already full life. It’s living the life you already have with open eyes and open hands, right where you are.

Some of you stop for coffee at the same place every morning. Instead of making your goal to get in and out as quickly as you can, what about slowing down—just a bit? Could you open your eyes to see the people who are there around you every day? Are there deep unmet needs in that place? Could those people use a priest to advocate for them and help them with their struggles? Might that person be you?

Some of you frequent the same gym, at the same time, several days a week. Instead of shooting dirty looks at the person whose sweat you’re wiping off the equipment they just finished with, is there a way to get to know them so you can do your job as priest in that place?

Some of you take leisurely walks along the same route in the same neighborhood every morning. Some of you work with the same people every day. You call on the same customers several times over a month’s time. You may eat at the same restaurants or hang out at the same bars. You may sit among the same group of people week after week as you watch your

kids or grandkids play soccer, softball and baseball. Instead of burying your face in your Smartphone, instead of hanging in cliques of people you already know, is it possible the people around you could use the assistance of a faithful priest of God?

See, to Live the Six is not about dramatic changes in your life. **It's about inviting God into the life you're already living** and finding ways to serve Him by meeting the needs of people around you.

Take this challenge. Begin to keep a notebook with you throughout the week. Several times a day (or once a day if you have a good memory), chronicle the people you've come into contact with and the needs you've seen. If you can't see any of their needs yet, don't panic, just work on deepening the relationship. A friend of mine makes a habit of asking servers at restaurants if there's anything he can pray about for them when he prays before his meal. He doesn't pray right then with them—that would probably be awkward for them—but he promises to pray for their needs that day. You don't have to use his method, but you *do* need to begin to take note of the people God has placed around you. I have another friend who is one of those guys people can't seem to help opening up to. Within moments of meeting someone new, he's got them spilling their guts! I don't have that effect on people, so I study him, trying to figure out what he's got and how he does it. I try to be more like that myself. The thought here is find someone in your life like that and learn from her or him. Whatever it takes begin to uncover the needs of the people around you. You aren't there accidentally. Those people need a mediator. They may not know it, but they desperately need Jesus and until they know Him personally, they need a priest who can access the help of the Triune God for their life's challenges. They need someone who can make God clearer to them because He's still fuzzy. You don't have to be a world-class evangelist and you don't have to have a solution for every woe or problem. In fact, once you start doing this, you may find yourself inundated with needs around you—so many you feel overwhelmed in just trying to *pray* for all of them. Don't get overwhelmed. Just be available. Don't look over your shoulder to see if someone else is waiting to do it. You are the person God has put there for His priestly work. Let God surprise you with what He can do through you!

I'm an avid coffee drinker. I've tried to quit several times, but I think I'm genetically predisposed toward coffee. I mean, if it's in your genes, what can you do? Regardless, I've learned to leverage this guilty pleasure into an opportunity to *see* and *own* the needs of people who work at my favorite coffee shops. A few years ago at my favorite coffee shop, there was a crew I got to know on a first name basis. We'd regularly make small talk, and I'd always linger for a second longer than I had to in order to try to connect with them. After having our acquaintance well established, I was invited by an unrelated party to speak at a local cancer walk. The night of the walk I was preparing to take the platform when I saw one of my coffee-shop friends. She was on the platform reading a poem she wrote about losing someone to cancer. The next time I was in the shop, I stole a second to ask her for the story behind the poem. I discovered that it was about her husband. I never would've guessed this young woman was a cancer widow. From that moment on I began praying for her and God began kindling in me a sense of responsibility for her and her needs.

One day after getting my coffee, I asked her how she was doing. She said she was fine but in her countenance, I could see something heavy. I asked her how she was *really* doing, and she spilled it. Because of her husband's death she had to downsize their home, moving into a house half the size. Without thinking, I asked if she needed help. I assured her I had access to lots of young, strong backs to help ease the work. She politely declined my help, but I didn't feel satisfied. Before leaving, I gave her my e-mail address and told her if things changed and she needed help to let me know, and I'd see what I could do.

This whole thing was completely uncharacteristic for me. I hate moving. I've moved six times in my adult life and have hated every one of them. I hate helping other people move. I have a never-ending list of projects awaiting completion at my own house; I don't need to more to do. My normal way of handling this would be to hear her sob story and think *wouldn't it be great if someone got a bunch of people together to help her?* From there I'd shrug it off and go on with my own life. But I felt an obligation this time, like it was my job to help, I had to offer.

A few days later, I was surprised to get an e-mail from her saying she hated asking for help but was really in a bad spot and desperately needed assistance to get the move done. I was able to send out an e-mail to a few awesome and reliable friends and explain the situation and by the time the weekend rolled around, we had 30-some people who showed up at her house to help her move. We had the whole thing done in half a day. She was completely overwhelmed by the outpouring and so was every person who showed up to help her. Best thing, she's not a churchgoer, but that day she got a powerful visual about what the Body of Christ is all about. From that day on I was no longer a customer, I was a friend. Although it was a relatively small gesture, it still stands out as one of the most significant things God has used me to do.

Can you imagine what God could do through you if you began looking at the places you live, work, shop and spend your free time differently? What might happen if you were to start viewing those venues as *your mission field*? What if you were to see needs around you and no longer wait, hope and pray that *somebody* does something? What if you were to step out in faith and meet those needs as a priest of God?

Find Common Ground

Another important tenet of learning to Live the Six is to find common ground. No one wants to open up to someone who acts superior. For whatever reason, Christians seems to have an especially hard time with this. What I mean is we tend to roll our eyes when lost people act lost. We are impatient and judgmental with them. Our compassion isn't very strong. Jesus had a different idea about how to approach people. In Luke 10:3-9, Jesus sends out 72 people to go and be priestly, to do the things He had been doing. As He gives them final instructions, He reveals some important insights on how to find common ground. Jesus said,

“Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’”

He gives them very specific instructions. First, Jesus says, “Do not take a purse or bag or sandals”; then He says, “Stay in that house eating and drinking whatever they give you.” It seems He is saying that as the disciples go, they shouldn't have to worry about the things they need, that people will take care of them on the road, which seems a little backwards. They're going to serve, not *be* served, right? Yes, but to serve others requires you to put yourself in a position of humility. In my life sometimes it can be easier to talk about what I believe than to ask other people what they believe and learn from them. It's easier for me to go and offer to help others than it is for me to ask for help. It's easier to feed people the meals I make than it is to eat their food (especially if they're serving things that have an exoskeleton). But the Gospel message *always* comes best from a position of humility not superiority. Sometimes to find common ground you have to start from a place of common need.

Are you the kind of person who makes others feel included or feel small? Make no mistake, though making others feel small may make you feel big, it's those people who make others feel *included* that rule the world—for bad or for good. Think of Jesus. Jesus came into the world *in the flesh*. He could've taken any form He wanted. He could've come as the book of Revelations describes Him, with hair like wool and eyes like lightening and with a sword for a tongue. But how did Jesus chose to manifest His presence? Oddly, it was not as some terrifying being, but as a baby, the humble son of a carpenter. Read through the pages of His life and see how He was able to open people up because He started—not from a position of superiority—but from one of humility. And because of His “common ground approach,” He won the hearts of all kinds of people, religious, irreligious, rich, poor, and not just because He had the truth, but because of the way He *brought* the truth.

Examine *your* approach. Are you a person skilled in the art of finding common ground, or could you use some work on this?

Press into the Mess

Here's an important disclaimer, as you begin to Live the Six, be prepared that this will be far messier than you think. Will it also be exhilarating? Of course! Meaningful? You bet! But it's messy. To truly embrace your priestly identity and Live the Six you need to come to grips with a few truths.

1. **Broken people are broken.** Don't be surprised by things broken people do. Don't be shocked when they make bad choices. In 1 Corinthians 5, even the apostle Paul acknowledges Christians shouldn't expect non-Christian people to care about Jesus' moral teachings.
2. **To Live the Six always takes longer and costs more than our original estimates.** Like doing a remodel of your kitchen, as you step out and begin serving people in need, the cost will always be higher and it will take far longer than you originally planned. Why? Go back to #1.
3. **Success is not guaranteed.** Jesus once told a parable about a farmer who goes out and sows seeds onto different kinds of soils. In His story, the majority of these seeds never grow into fruitful plants, which is kind of depressing. As you Live the Six you may find yourself fighting for a cause, fighting for a relationship, fighting for someone's eternal destiny, and you need to know you may not win. You may fail. That's not an excuse to sit idly, the point of Jesus' parable isn't to encourage farmers to hang up their plows and go tend sheep instead. The message is to get out there and scatter more seeds and leave the fruitfulness up to God.
4. **People won't understand.** Sometimes as you really wade into the messiness of priestly work your family and friends will want you to get your head examined. They will accuse you of going too far. They will assume you care too much or that you're co-dependent. That could be, but the priestly work Jesus has called us to is very *unworldly*. People won't agree with it or accept it, but then again they didn't agree with or accept Jesus either. If you're going to accept this incredible job position to be a priest in your part of the world, prepare yourself to be misunderstood—regularly.

This list isn't meant to dissuade you. The key reason that to Live the Six will be harder and messier than most of us think is because **grace is messy**. But if you're reading this booklet, hopefully you have already discovered in a very personal way that although its messy, grace is beautiful. Jesus coming to earth, living and dying, to save the very people who were set against Him, *that* was messy. But hopefully you can see it was worth it. When you embrace this calling to Live the Six and you do it day after day, I promise it'll be messy. But I hope you can also believe it will be worth it.

What's It all For?

If you can begin to say, "My purpose on earth is to use everything I have, everything I am, to serve God by serving others as a priest of God—*wherever* I'm planted." Then you're on your way to Live the Six. But please understand what this is all for! It's not about serving God for *His* sake. It's as someone once said, "God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does!" To Live the Six is done for the sake of a hurting world around us, which is still estranged from God. And it's also for your *own* sake; it's what you were created to do. And as I mentioned, until you start doing what you were *re-created* to do, you will never feel right.

It's not a "have to" it's a "get to" kind of thing. The God of the universe, who created you, who through Jesus has saved you and is remaking you into a new creation, He now looks at you and says, "I want to give you the privilege of doing the most important work in all the world. Be My ambassadors. Be My representatives. Be priests where I have planted you; serve others in My Name!"

I will acknowledge that God *may* be calling some of us to drastic things but for a lot of us, God is not calling us to a drastically different life. To Live the Six is *not* about living a totally different life; it's about what God wants to do within your existing life. It's a *lifestyle*, not a *list*. It's what happens *on the way*, as you live life. It's not yet another stop on your already busy route.

And when you begin to take hold of this sacred calling, this sacred privilege, it'll even change the way you see that "hour on Sunday." No longer will Sundays be the expression of your Christian life, your life lived *between* Sundays will be that. Instead, Sunday mornings will become for you a sacred respite where Jesus forgives you and fills you and fires you up about living as His priest for the *next* six days. If you don't believe me, just try it and let the transformation begin. Get out there and Live the Six!

15 Practical Ideas to Get You Started to Live the Six

In addition to the ideas given above, here are a few more things you can do to Live the Six in the world around you.

1. Learn the names of service workers you encounter every day. The clerks at the stores you shop at, the custodial staff that cleans your building, even the guy who collects your garbage. Express interest in them as people. Ask them how their lives are going.
2. Get in the habit of asking people around you if there's anything you can pray about for them. As they talk to you, write the concern down. It will help you actually follow through and will show them you're serious about their concerns.
3. When preparing a meal for your own family, double the recipe. Take the second portion to a neighbor, a friend, or someone who is discouraged or experiencing hardship.
4. Pick up trash at the local park or playground. Get some people together, find some garbage bags, and head out.
5. Work at a community food bank or soup kitchen as a family or with a group of friends.
6. Take a plant or flowers to random residents at a nursing home or an assisted-living center. Spend 15 minutes visiting with them. Ask if you can pray for them.
7. Offer to keep your neighbors' children (free of charge), so they can go out on a date. Express your desire to see them have a strong marriage.
8. Become the social "hub" of your neighborhood. Make an effort to know your neighbors by name. Schedule a few neighborhood social events throughout the year. Think simple like doing S'mores nights around a firepit, neighborhood BBQs where you bring your own meat, etc. Most people wish they knew their neighbors better; they just don't have the time or the confidence to make it happen.
9. If you are in a position of volunteer leadership with a club or organization, or if you serve as a coach, find ways to use your position to show interest and concern for the people you lead personally. Inquire about their families/loved ones. Tell them you'll pray about any challenges or difficulties on their behalf.
10. Invite your unchurched friends or neighbors to see the latest controversial movie with you. Build in time afterward to discuss it over dessert or drinks. Look for *natural* ways to introduce your faith into the conversation.
11. Plan a family mission trip to an urban center and partner with a Christian agency there. You'll not only have a meaningful time of service but you'll learn a lot that will help you back home.
12. Get a jack stand or wheel ramps for cars. Find a few Christian friends and offer an oil-changing service to single mothers or senior citizens in your neighborhood, church or workplace. (Do make sure you have a plan to dispose of the oil in a safe, environmentally friendly way.)
13. People love receiving written notes. Don't wait for your boss to encourage or affirm you. Write him/her a note that affirms a Christ-like quality in their leadership that you appreciate.
14. Approach your local government and ask if there is anything you can do to serve them or your community. The same applies with local police and fire departments.
15. Regularly connect with resources that encourage missional living. One such resource can be found at **www.thesixpodcast.com**.

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