

The Art of (OUT) Neighboring



SUMMER EXPERIMENT!

Step 1 - Define Your Experiment

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to try to meet new neighbors this summer OR try to deepen your relationship with your neighbors.

The reality is, there is no right way to do this. So the best thing to do is to determine an experiment that you want to try. The experiment should answer the question:

What is God doing in my neighborhood/workplace and in the lives of my neighbors/coworkers?

Here are some examples of an experiment. But the BEST experiment is YOUR own and an idea that you prayed about and feel God led you to!

- Go to the same coffee shop to work on the same day of the week all summer.
- Join a neighborhood running club/kickball/chess league/etc.
- Map your block and try to get as many names as possible.
- Host a block party.
- Invite coworkers to eat lunch together every Wednesday in your office.
- Try to go to the farmers market every week at the same time.
- Invite the parents of your kid's soccer/baseball/art camp to get together socially once or twice outside of supporting the kid's team.

The experiment should be:

1. Simple
2. Realistic
3. Actionable

Once you determine your experiment write it down on the back of this sheet in the step 1 box!

Tip:
Just push yourself a little bit past your comfort zone - don't try to obliterate your comfort zone :-)

Step 2 - Determine Your Steps

Without clear steps, we often don't step into new things! Here is where you outline the steps you will take to make sure you actually try out your experiment. You will learn new things as you do this experiment; that is the goal!

The only failed experiment is one that you never actually try!

Steps might look like:

1. Chat with my family/roommates about joining in on the experiment.
2. Get out your calendar and save any dates needed for the experiment.
3. Determine the level of intentionality needed: do we need to sign up for something? Communicate something? Get more information?
4. Name any action that you will take: Try to get all the names of those on the kickball team... gather emails from the soccer team parents... print out invites for the block party.

Tip: Write down all the steps! Even if they seem obvious, the steps will help you actually put the experiment into action!

Once you determine your steps write them down on the back of this sheet in the step 2 box!

Step 3 - Analyze Results

Put this sheet up on your fridge or wall with the side showing your experiment and steps facing out. This will remind you to try the experiment out!

When will you be finished with the experiment? Put a time in your calendar to get together with others you are experimenting with, or just on your own to analyze what happened.

Seriously.

Put it in your calendar right now. :-)

When the time comes, ask these questions:

1. What did we see God doing in our neighborhood/workplace?
2. What did we see God doing in the lives of our neighbors/coworkers?
3. Who did I feel like God was leading me to connect with?
4. Who felt like they were not the people God was calling me to?
5. What was harder than I thought it would be?
6. What was easier than I thought it would be?
7. What are next steps to continue the learning that I gained from this experiment?

The most important thing is that we LEARN from our experiments. The only way to learn is to review what happened and write down what we have learned.

Once you determine your results write them down on the back of this sheet in the step 3 box!

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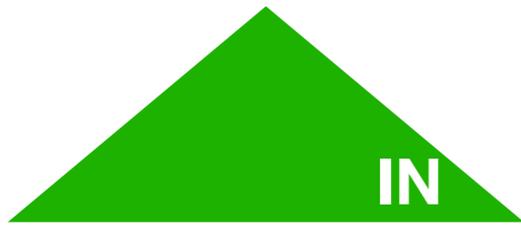
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Step 3 - Analyze Results

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SUMMER EXPERIMENT!

Step 1 - Define Your Experiment

The question for “in” experiments is this:

How is God inviting me to deepen my relationship with my community/family?

Start by making a list of all the relationships you have in your life. Let that list guide you in determining your experiment.

Here are some examples of an experiment. But the BEST experiment is YOUR own and an idea that you prayed about and feel God led you to!

- Plan a regular date night this summer with your partner.
- Pick three friends you are going to be intentional with even if you have to use the phone to catch up.
- Bring some intentional questions into your relationships that you are going to ask every week.

The experiment should be:

1. Simple
2. Realistic
3. Actionable

Once you determine your experiment write it down on the back of this sheet in the step 1 box!

Tip:
Don't plan to do something that is unrealistic! It will only make you discouraged!

Step 2 - Determine Your Steps

Without clear steps, we often don't step into new things! Here is where you outline the steps you will take to make sure you actually try out your experiment. You will learn new things as you do this experiment; that is the goal!

The only failed experiment is one that you never actually try!

Steps might look like:

1. Chat with my family/roommates about joining in on the experiment.
2. Get out your calendar and save any dates needed for the experiment.
3. Determine the level of intentionality needed: do we need to sign up for something? Communicate something? Get more information? Invite people to something?
4. Name any action that you will take.

Tip: Write down all the steps! Even if they seem obvious, the steps will help you actually put the experiment into action!

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Step 3 - Analyze Results

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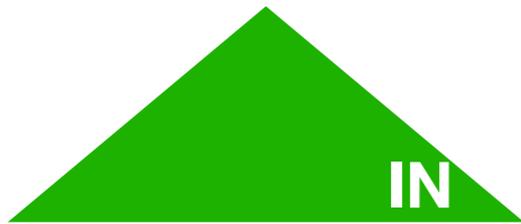
Put it in your calendar right now. :-)

When the time comes, ask these questions:

1. How did I see God inviting me into deeper relationship with my community through my experiment?
2. What may have felt like a barrier in connecting with others?
3. What parts of this experiment could I take into this next season?
4. What was harder than I thought it would be?
5. What was easier than I thought it would be?
6. What are next steps to continue the learning that I gained from this experiment?

The most important thing is that we LEARN from our experiments. The only way to learn is to review what happened and write down what we have learned.

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UP



SUMMER EXPERIMENT!

Step 1 - Define Your Experiment

The question for “up” experiments is this:

How is God inviting me to deepen my relationship with Jesus?

Start by making a list of all the ways you feel connected to Jesus. Let that list guide you in determining your experiment.

Here are some examples of an experiment. But the BEST experiment is YOUR own and an idea that you prayed about and feel God led you to!

- Set a timer to connect with God throughout your day even for brief moments.
- If nature connects you to God, put outdoor time in your calendar. Don't let the weather stop you, perhaps a walk in the rain could bring intimacy with God as you walk and pray.
- Perhaps you connect with God intellectually, what is a book that you could commit to read, who might you discuss it with?

The experiment should be:

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Step 2 - Determine Your Steps

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The only failed experiment is one that you never actually try!

Steps might look like:

1. Chat with my family/roommates about joining in on the experiment. OR leaving you alone if solitude is a part of your experiment.
2. Get out your calendar and save any dates needed for the experiment.
3. Determine the level of intentionality needed: do we need to sign up for something? Communicate something? Get more information?
4. Name any action that you will take: Take 3 prayer walks a week, read ____ book one chapter a week, etc.

Tip: Write down all the steps! Even if they seem obvious, the steps will help you actually put the experiment into action!

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Step 3 - Analyze Results

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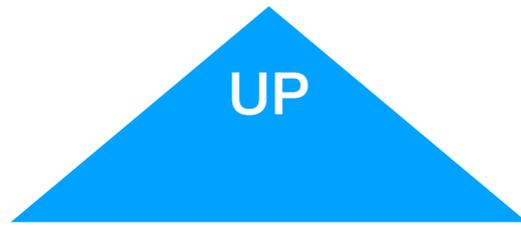
Put it in your calendar right now. :-)

When the time comes, ask these questions:

1. How did I see God inviting me into deeper relationship with Him through my experiment?
2. What may have felt like a barrier in connecting with God?
3. Who were people I could share my experience with?
4. What parts of this experiment could I take into this next season?
5. What was harder than I thought it would be?
6. What was easier than I thought it would be?
7. What are next steps to continue the learning that I gained from this experiment?

The most important thing is that we LEARN from our experiments. The only way to learn is to review what happened and write down what we have learned.

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