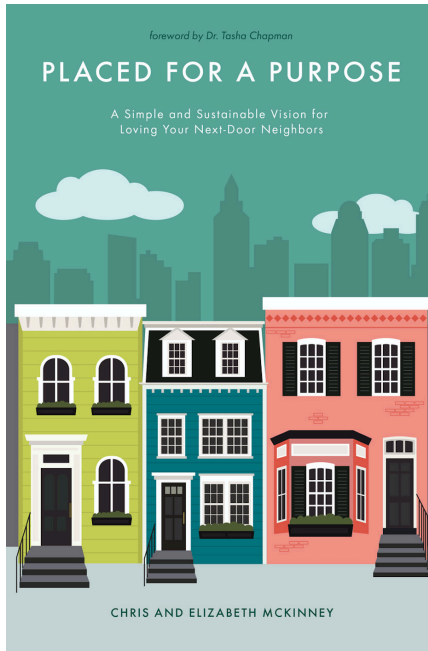


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Placed for a Purpose:
A Simple and Sustainable
Vision for Loving Your
Next-Door Neighbors**



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Highlights & Things to Consider:

Each of the six small group lessons is followed by a discussion guide with the following:

- Purpose of the discussion
- Chapter refresher
- Discussion questions
- Neighboring assignment & prayer for the week

Your Address Isn't an Accident.

When we began neighboring eight years ago, we were in the most stressful season of our lives. Our schedules were maxed with directing a local college ministry, commuting to seminary, and barely keeping our heads above water with kids. Reaching out to the neighbors just wasn't on our radar. Home was a place of survival mode where we hunkered down and tried to do the next urgent thing. Looking back, we were really at a crossroads. Despite the persistent pull to stay in our busy, overwhelmed and insulated bubble and leave our neighbors alone, we had a growing sense that we needed people right around us. And maybe it could be something fun and life-giving in the midst of our monotony. So... we threw a small fish fry. Little did we know at the time that God was pulling us out of the cultural story of neighboring and sweeping us into his story of redemption in our neighborhood.

As a result, we've watched as God has done some pretty great things. We've seen some neighbors give their lives to Christ and join our small group and we've built friendships with neighbors from all different religious backgrounds and walks of life. The social fabric of our neighborhood has been strengthened and still others are considering Jesus for the first time- or reconsidering him. And we could share for days on end of the ways our neighbors have become the means of God's great mercy and enrichment in our lives.

We saw early on that neighboring is a lot more like a crockpot than a microwave; it's low and slow. Microwaves are wonderful things, but neighboring thrives in the world of marinades and slow cooking. Initially this "low and slow" perspective came as giant breath of fresh air; it still does. We were excited to experience the rich development of relationships with neighbors that would have sustainable, lasting impact. Yet, as time went on, we began asking ourselves: "Are we really making an impact for Christ? Do these seemingly small, behind-the-scenes acts of service really matter to God? Should we be doing more? The cultural current is so strong- how could it possibly be changed? What is the point of all of this?" We were used to talking to college students where topics of faith and Jesus typically came up much quicker, but these neighbors were our adult peers, and we wrestled with the fact that relationships just moved slower.

We needed more than a neighboring manual or a command to love our neighbors; we needed Jesus. We needed to keep experiencing the gospel in our own lives in order to answer these questions and persevere through obstacles we faced. We realized we needed to broaden our view of what counted as redemptive work and what it meant to have gospel-motivated conversations with our neighbors. So initially we wrote this book to ourselves as everything we wish we'd known eight years ago when we started.

We wrote it in a way that could be easily used and discussed in a small-group setting with the hope that it will encourage other believers with purpose, patience, and great expectancy, knowing that God is at work through small, seed-sized interactions.

Praise for Placed for a Purpose

"If you've ever had the desire to see God work in and through you right where he has you, then *Placed for a Purpose* is the perfect practical and heart-engaging guide.

David Robbins, President and CEO of FamilyLife

"*Placed for a Purpose* [helps you want] to create margin in your life so you can be more present with the people who live right outside your front door."

Dave Runyon, Co-author of Art of Neighboring



“The material in this book is really good—insightful, educational, motivating, and actually fun to do while you make new friends.”

Dave Cover, Co-lead Pastor, The Crossing

“This excellent resource trains our church planters why and how to engage in neighboring.”

**Philip Douglass, Covenant Theological Seminary;
Director of Church Planting for Missouri Presbytery of the PCA**

“This book could radically change the way we view and engage our neighbors.

**Courtney Doctor, Coordinator of Women’s Initiatives, The Gospel Coalition;
Author of *From Garden to Glory: A Bible Study on the Bible’s Story***

About the Authors:



Chris and Elizabeth McKinney live in Columbia, Missouri with their four daughters and a Pomeranian. They work for Cru City and serve as associate staff at their church, The Crossing. They write, speak, and are passionate about helping people love their next-door neighbors.

Chris grew up in Budapest Hungary and came back to attend Kansas State University. After graduating, he joined staff with Cru to do campus ministry at the University of Missouri. While directing the ministry, he earned his MDiv. from Covenant Theological Seminary. In his spare time he also enjoys his Chemex, cooking, and watching football.

Elizabeth graduated from Miami University, where she studied Comparative Religion. Now her world revolves around lovies, princess dresses and wiping little hands. She is a loud-yelling soccer mom who loves to bring artistry into motherhood through making birthday cakes and coordinating Disney Halloween costumes.

Suggested Interview Questions:

- Tell us a little about your story, how you got involved in neighboring, and why you wrote *Placed for a Purpose*.
- You were in campus ministry for seventeen years but now your ministry focus is neighboring. How is this different?
- Why do you think neighboring is important in today’s climate?
- What was it like writing a book together?
- You’ve said, “Neighboring is like a crock pot; it’s low and slow.” How has that been refreshing? Difficult?
- You talk about how our homes need to be places where we can rest, heal, and recharge but that our neighbors can be God’s “means of grace” to bring that healing. What did you mean by that?
- What are some of the obstacles you think people face when it comes to getting to know their neighbors?
- You’ve said, “Your address is not an accident, and neither is your neighbor’s.” How have you experienced that?
- Let’s talk personalities. Are you both extroverted? Introverted? What would you say to people who are a little more introverted or have personalities that are more drained by being with people? How does personality play in?
- Based off the parable of the Good Samaritan, you describe this concept of a “non-neighbor” as the neighbor we don’t want to love. How have you personally embraced those who had been “non-neighbors” for you?
- I found it interesting when you proposed the idea that Jesus had neighbors. Tell us more about that.
- Talk about “The Neighboring Grid.” How can we avoid envying, judging and ignoring our neighbors?
- How does seeing your neighbors as image-bearers inform your interactions with them?
- How would you define hospitality? What would change in our neighborhoods if we embraced this view?
- How do you think fear impacts the way we show up in our neighborhoods?
- You mention the importance of receiving and having mutual relationships. What has that been like for you?
- Why do you think it can feel so ordinary and non-glamorous to see our neighborhoods as mission fields?
- Share a little about the difference between having ultimate versus having ulterior motives with our neighbors.
- You’ve said we need to remove the four-letter-word, “just” from our neighboring vocabularies. Why?
- What about conflict with our neighbors? Have you had any? How did you handle it? What advice do you have?
- You talk about “gospel-motivated conversations.” What are they and how can we have them?
- What about the neighbors who you say are “none and done” with religion? How do we engage them?
- How do your neighbors feel about you being the “neighboring people” and writing a book about neighboring?
- If someone hears this and wants to take some first steps to get to know their neighbors, what would you tell them?

To request a review copy of *Placed for a Purpose*, to schedule an interview with Chris and Elizabeth McKinney or for more information, please contact: Elizabeth McKinney, elizabeth.mckinney@cru.org

Learn more at placedforapurpose.com. Keep up with Chris and Elizabeth on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).