



# WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

## Throwing Better Parties July 7<sup>th</sup> / July 8<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: **Dr. Mark Batterson**

Scripture: **Luke 15**

### Sermon Summary:

Jesus spent time with Pharisees and with tax collectors, and he offended them both. Celebrations have always been a part of the story of God, and Jesus claimed to be the ultimate giver of abundant life. We need to develop a healthy theology of fun.

### Sermon Series Questions:

1. What did God reveal to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. What is one element of God's character you learned?

### Sermon Specific Questions:

1. Who are you befriending? Who are you offending? Who does it reflect more: Jesus or the Pharisees?
2. How can we throw better parties that honor God, show others His love, and celebrate other people?
3. Read Luke 15:11-32. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, which character do you most identify with: (1) the Prodigal Son, (2) the Father, or (3) the Older Brother? Why?
4. Has there been a time in your life where a 3-minute conversation changed your day?
5. Who can you throw a 3-minute party for this week?

## Activate Challenge

### It Begins with Proximity:

Throwing better parties start with proximity. Spend some time creating opportunities to meet new people and develop new relationships. *What are you going to do to put yourself in front of new people?* Here are a few ideas to help get that started:

- Play in your front yard (rather than your backyard) with your kids
- Walk to dinner or to do errands
- Take public transportation and talk to someone along the way
- Organize a neighborhood event
- Join a community garden
- Sit on your front porch
- Strike up conversation with strangers

### Block Party Kit:

Restore Alexandria has put together a **Block Party Kit** and an **Outdoor Movie Kit** that you can use to host a neighborhood gathering. The block party kit comes with the basic things you might need to host a gathering, including chairs, tables, and coolers. The outdoor movie kit includes a 16-foot movie screen, projector, and sound equipment. There is also an option to add exciting things like popcorn, snow cone, or cotton candy machines. Email [matt@restorealexandria.org](mailto:matt@restorealexandria.org) for more information.

## RESOURCES

BOOK:

**Happy Hour: Etiquette and Advice on Holy Merriment**  
Hugh Halter

### Share your Story:

As a small groups team, we **LOVE** stories, we **LOVE** pictures, we **LOVE** sharing. Share the fun and unique things that your group is doing over the summer. Post pictures of you & your group on the **NCC Small Group Leaders** Facebook group (link below) or share a win/story with Kiersten Telzerow (Barracks Row Sunday Small Groups Director) via email at [kiersten.telzerow@theaterchurch.com](mailto:kiersten.telzerow@theaterchurch.com) or comment on the weekly *Share your Story* Facebook post.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NCCsmallgroups/>