

# DRAFT: Neighborhood Advocate Cohort 2024

Tuesdays/Thursdays, September to December

## **Class Location and Times (subject to change)**

- WeWork: 12 E 49 St. from 7-9 pm

## **Contact Information**

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Please feel free to contact us if there are any questions or if clarification is needed.

## ***Cohort Description***

Neighborhood Advocate Cohort (NAC), is designed to create a learning community through worship, reflection, and experiences that lead to gospel-renewed participants who build relationships mutually, serve justly and share Christ hopefully with their neighbors.

## ***Cohort Goals***

- Train theologically to engage through a biblical framework and the spiritual practice of gospel engagement towards neighbors in need
- Incorporate Scriptural Engagement Plan with Public Reading of Scripture in the corporate and personal reading of Scripture
- Introduce historical assets and needs through major categories of injustice (housing, employment, and education) and the broad network of institutions, urban practitioners and nonprofit leaders who serve in NYC neighborhoods
- Experience opportunities and resources for generous lifestyles that appreciate the assets and serve the needs of our neighborhoods through a lens of loving, lamenting and leveraging our resources for advocacy.
- Develop a Neighborhood Initiative: Individuals will develop a church-based project that integrates mercy and justice into church life as a key expression of their discipleship. The initiative aims to increase our proximity and understanding of issues of injustice and inequity in our city. Through relationships and learning, these initiatives will imagine renewal and innovative ways to serve toward transformation.
- Engaged and committed in their neighborhood to root themselves, build mutual relationships, practice hospitality, appreciate the assets, and serve where God calls them as an act of worship.
- Formed as a Disciple who continues to pursue growth through scriptural reflection, public reading of scripture, practices, community, and callings, including making other disciples in their neighborhood (accountability in a community).

### **Texts, Materials, or Equipment**

- *Seeing Jesus in East Harlem* by Jose Humphrey
- *Generous Justice* by Timothy Keller
- *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett
- *5 Things to Pray for Your City: Prayers that Change Things for Your Church, Community and Culture* by Pete Nicholas, Helen Thorne with Introduction by Timothy Keller
- *Loving the City* by Tim Keller
- Journal/blog (This journal is to keep reflections, prayers, and scripture)
- Daily Picture taking, audio taking, and note-taking.

### **Daily Work/Homework**

- Each week, you will have a series of mandatory readings that will prep you for the session. Each reading should be accompanied by some reflections to share in the group and we are making some interaction with photos, sound, and notes.
- Discipline of Discovering (when you look and listen, take a moment to reflect on the following):
  - Different
  - Delight
  - Difficult
- People, Place, and Passion
- The practice of Looking/Listening, Lamenting/Loving, and Leaning in/Leveraging
- Fasting element (i.e. - fasting from social media during the cohort)

### **Format of Meetings**

- Testimonio: Testimony of what God is showing you (15 Minutes)
  - Processing Journals
  - Discipline of Discovering
  - People, Place, and Passion/Compassion
  - Pictures, Audio, and note taking.
- Lectio: Reading of Scripture (10 Minutes)
- Teaching: Biblical Reflection (25 Minutes)
- Process Reading and Initiative Discussion (35 Minutes)
- Action Item: Reminders of Progress (10 Minutes)

### **Class Participation**

Learning in Community is extremely important for the work we are doing at NAC because it is within the collective voices we are challenged to grow together. That is why participation in all activities is critical to the formation and function of the group.

We want to create a space for gospel-centered conversations that seek to be civil, respectful, and supportive of inclusion while also honoring God's call to challenge and stretch us as a learning community for all participants.

We would love to hear any feedback or any thoughts on this model.

### ***Course-Specific Support or Supplementary Instruction***

In addition to the reading, we will share resources that are not mandatory but add relevant and timely engagement. Please feel free to suggest other supplemental resources to share with the rest of the cohorts.

### ***Cohort Policies and Information for participants***

The best learning environment is one in which all members feel respected while being productively challenged. In NAC we hope to foster an inclusive atmosphere in which all participants can contribute, explore, and challenge their own ideas as well as those of others.

Every participant has an active responsibility to foster a climate of spiritual formation, intellectual stimulation, openness, and respect for diverse perspectives, questions, personal backgrounds, abilities, and experiences. However, we bear primary responsibility for its maintenance.

### ***Disclaimer***

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the time of the cohort.

### ***Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments***

1. Session One: September: Look/Listen, Love/Lament, and Lean-in/Leverage/Liberate
2. Session Two: Biblical Survey of Mishpat, Hesed, Shalom & Lament/*Helping Without Hurting: Why Did Jesus Come to Earth? Loving the City: Tension of the City*
3. Session Three: October 8 (No Class, Reading Day): Reflect on Isaiah 58. *Generous Justice: Justice and the Old Testament, When Helping Hurts: What's the Problem? Loving the City: Redemption and the City*
4. Session Four: October 15 (*Neighborhood HFNY Fair* in lieu of class): Kingdom: Reflections on The Sermon on the Mount (Neighborhood Fair), *Generous Justice: What Did Jesus Say About Justice? When Helping Hurts: Are There Yet? Loving the City: The Call to the City*
5. Session Five: October 22: The Exiled: The Stranger & Foreigner: Immigrant, Displacement & Home. *Generous Justice: Justice and Your Neighbor. When Helping Hurts: Not All Poverty is Created Equal*
6. Session Six: October 29: Psalter: A Cry for Justice & Mercy  
Reading: *Generous Justice: Why Should We Do Justice? When Helping Hurts: Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor and Their Assets, Seeing Jesus in East Harlem: El Testimonio*
7. Session Seven: November 5: The Challenges and Opportunities of Neighborhood: Sidewalks in the Kingdom  
Reading: *Generous Justice: How Should We Do Justice? When Helping Hurts: McDevelopment: Over 2.5 Billion Not Served, Seeing Jesus In East Harlem: And the Here I Ams. Journals Reflections and Submissions Due*

8. Session Eight: November 12: Church in Mission: Ecclesiology of Welcome; No Reading (Initial Presentations)
9. Session Nine: November 19: Key Church Strategies for Engagement  
Reading: *When Helping Hurts* (optional): Chapter 7-8. *Seeing Jesus in East Harlem: Incarnational: Tracing our Embodied Faith Through Christ's Body*
10. Session Ten: November 26 (No Class, Reading Day): *When Helping Hurts: On Your Mark, Get Set Go! Final Word: The Most Important Step. Seeing Jesus in East Harlem: SEE*
11. Session Eleven: December 3: Faithful Presence: Neighborhoods and Neighboring  
Reading: *When Helping Hurts* (optional): Chapter 7-8. *Seeing Jesus in East Harlem: Incarnational: Tracing our Embodied Faith Through Christ's Body*
12. Session Twelve: December 10: Celebration at the Museum of The City of New York

Complete by Date	Assigned Readings/Homework	Overview
10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Generous Justice: Introduction and Chapter One (pp 1-19)</li> <li>● When Helping Hurts: Introduction and Chapter One (pp. 21-48)</li> <li>● Loving the City: Tension of the City (pp. 113-126). Questions on p. 126</li> </ul>	<b>Session Two</b> Initiative Framing
10/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>No Meeting/Reading Day</b></li> <li>● Generous Justice: Chapter Two (pp. 19-40)</li> <li>● When Helping Hurts: Chapter Two (pp. 49-70)</li> <li>● Loving the City: Redemption and the City (pp. 127-134.) Questions on p. 135</li> </ul>	<b>Session Three</b> Initiative Framing
10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Neighborhood Fair in lieu of class</b></li> <li>● Generous Justice: Chapter Three (pp. 41-61)</li> <li>● When Helping Hurts: Chapter Three (pp. 71-98)</li> <li>● Loving the City: The Call to the City (pp. 136-149) Questions on p. 150</li> </ul>	<b>Session Four</b> Proposals/Brainstorm
10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Generous Justice: Chapter Four (pp. 62-77)</li> <li>● When Helping Hurts: Chapter Four (pp. 99-118)</li> </ul>	<b>Session Five</b> Inquiry for Initiatives
10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Generous Justice: Chapter Five (pp. 78-108)</li> <li>● When Helping Hurts: Chapter Five (pp. 119-132)</li> <li>● Seeing Jesus in East Harlem: (pp. 1-26) Questions on p. 26</li> </ul>	<b>Session Six</b> Initiatives Preparation
11/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Generous Justice: Chapter Six (pp. 109-147)</li> <li>● When Helping Hurts: Chapter Six (pp. 133-150)</li> <li>● Seeing Jesus in East Harlem: (pp. 27-46)</li> <li>● (Journal Reflection and submissions due)</li> </ul>	<b>Session Seven</b> Service Opportunity
11/12	No Reading	<b>Session Eight</b> Initiative Presentations
11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When Helping Hurts: Chapter Seven (optional) and Eight (pp. 169-184)</li> <li>● Seeing Jesus in East Harlem: (pp. 47-64)</li> </ul>	<b>Session Nine</b> Initiative Presentations
11/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>No Meeting/Reading Day</b></li> <li>● When Helping Hurts: Chapter Eleven (pp. 223-250)</li> <li>● Seeing Jesus in East Harlem: (pp. 119-173)</li> </ul>	<b>No Class</b>

12/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeing Jesus in East Harlem: (pp. 174-223)</li> </ul>	<b>Session Ten</b> Special Guest
12/10	Celebration at Museum of The City of New York	<b>Session Eleven</b>

Additional Resources if you are interested in more!

- District Demographics: <https://communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov/>
- Vanishing New York by Jeremiah Moss
- Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898 (The History of NYC Series) and Greater Gotham: History of New York City from 1898 to 1919 by Mike Wallace
- How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis
- Poetics of Space by Gaston Bachelard
- A Heart for the Community: New Models for Urban and Suburban Ministry edited by John Fuder, Noel Castellanos with a foreword by John Perkins
- Living City: How America's City are Being Revitalized by Thinking Small in a Big Way by Roberta Brandes Gratz
- Teaching While Black: A New Voice on Race and Education in New York City by Pamela Lewis
- Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond
- Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregate America by Richard Rothstein
- The Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs
- Practicing the King's Economy: Honoring Jesus in How We Work, Earn, Spend, Save and Give by Michael Rhodes.
- Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas by Rebecca Solnit

### **Public Reading of Scripture**

The Public Reading of Scripture was a means of grace for the people of God to reflect and remember who He is and who we are. This practice was encouraged by the Apostle Paul to Timothy when he instructed all to "... devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching." 1 Timothy 4:13.

As part of our practice in the Neighborhood Advocate Cohort, we will spend time entering into the public reading of scripture through these passages.

Complete by Date	Scripture Reading	Overview
10/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Psalm 111</li> <li>● Genesis 17</li> <li>● Ephesians 2</li> <li>● 1 John 3</li> <li>● Psalm 105</li> </ul>	<b>Session Two</b> Initiative Framing
10/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Psalm 9</li> <li>● Leviticus 19</li> <li>● Luke 14</li> <li>● Psalm 82</li> </ul>	<b>Session Three</b> Initiative Framing
10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Psalm 101</li> <li>● Isaiah 58</li> <li>● Luke 4</li> <li>● Psalm 146</li> </ul>	<b>Session Four</b> Proposals/Brainstorm
10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Psalm 7</li> <li>● Micah 6</li> <li>● 1 John 4</li> <li>● Psalm 89</li> </ul>	<b>Session Five</b> Inquiry for Initiatives
10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Psalm 37</li> <li>● Amos 2</li> <li>● Matthew 5</li> <li>● Psalm 106</li> </ul>	<b>Session Six</b> Initiatives Preparation
11/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Psalm 140</li> <li>● Amos 3</li> <li>● James 2</li> <li>● Psalm 35</li> </ul>	<b>Session Seven</b>
11/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None</li> </ul>	<b>Session Eight</b> Community Initiative Presentations
11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Psalm 69</li> <li>● Deuteronomy 10</li> <li>● Matthew 25</li> <li>● Psalm 103</li> </ul>	<b>Session Nine</b>

11/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Psalm 10</li><li>● Jeremiah 29</li><li>● Acts 2</li><li>● Psalm 11</li></ul>	<b>Reading Day</b>
12/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Psalm 68</li><li>● Habakkuk 2/Jeremiah 22</li><li>● Matthew 23</li><li>● Psalm 58</li></ul>	<b>Session Ten</b>
12/10	Celebration	<b>Session Eleven</b>