



Keystone people are those who see themselves as participants in God’s big story for the places where they live. They play a pivotal role. It is a useful metaphor for thinking about there role we play in our neighbourhoods. Think of this resource as a tool to help you reflect on the ways you are finding life in your neighbourhood, or reflect on how you may just be passing through.

Keystone People	Passing Through People
I am living in a public sphere, it’s for me and those around me.	My living space is enclosed, it’s for me and my close friends.
My resources build a longer table to welcome others.	My resources build a higher fence to keep me safe.
I am steeped in who God says I am.	I am steeped in who I think I am.
I seek to find out where God at work here and now.	I believe God is mostly at work somewhere else.
I find small things important.	I dismiss the small as unimportant.
I know how to slow down to discover what God is doing.	I believe slow is lazy and useless.
I know God is leading, I trust the Spirit.	I have a personal master-plan.
I see the whole neighbourhood as God’s arena of hope and redemption.	I see the Church alone as the place where God is at work.
I am focused on my neighbours, whoever they may be.	I am focused on my affinity group and ethnicity.
I value the Kingdom and see my neighbourhood through Jesus’s parables.	I value my own kingdom and see the world through my own lens.
I believe my neighbourhood can change and so I step in bravely with Jesus.	I believe little can change, and so I retreat.
I believe God is already here.	I invite God, but God may or may not show up.
I know God’s people and People of Peace can be found all around me.	I am alone in this.

Try this:
 Reflect on your own responses to these two ways of viewing your place. What does a keystone person look like in your neighbourhood?

Passing Through People	Keystone People
My neighbourhood is incidental to my journey of faith in Jesus.	My neighbourhood is a place that is teaching me how to follow Jesus.
I want to hear God say, "well done, you overachiever!"	I want to hear God say, "well done, you trusted in me."
The joy I am looking for isn't found on this earth.	The joy I am looking for is found with Jesus right where I am.
I'll only be satisfied when I'm doing what I want to do.	I'll only be satisfied when I am trusting in Jesus wherever I am.
I use what I see around me for my own purposes, I am a consumer.	I am a gardener, I create an environment for growth all around me, I am a creator.
I transact with those around me, wondering how I can benefit.	I relate to those around me, enjoying the transformations I see.
I am so busy, I have no time for others.	I leave space in my life for spontaneity and availability.
I find life hard, so I retreat to my own diversion to numb the pain.	I crave life, so I look for beauty all around me and find that I am awoken by God's goodness.
I am afraid and think my neighbours are a risk to me - so I close my life to them.	I foster a culture of trust and find my neighbours are allies - so I open my life to them.
I think my neighbourhood is a collection of buildings and the people are in the way, whatever.	I think my neighbourhood and the people around me are amazing - created by God, wow!
	What would you add...?