



NEIGHBOR WELL

OUR MISSION AT THE WELL IS TO
HELP PEOPLE CONNECT TO GOD AND
EACH OTHER, IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD.

Summertime seems to be an incredible opportunity to slow down and be intentional with those around you. From backyard bbq's to lemonade stands and 4th of July block parties, summer tends to lend itself to more opportunity to be outside and around neighbors! We hope this guide encourages you to think of some ways to "neighbor well" in this season.

INSIDE THIS GUIDE YOU'LL FIND:

- List of ways to connect with your neighbors
- Life Group Guide (2 hours)
- 8 week study based on a book around Intentional Neighboring
- Book Recommendation & Resources

"For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

GALATIANS 5:14

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

KNOWING & LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

HELP YOUR GROUP PRAYERFULLY AND PRACTICALLY ENGAGE NEIGHBORS
DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

Connect (15 mins)

Have each person answer:

1. What was your neighborhood like growing up?
2. Share one memorable interaction you've had with a neighbor.

Pray (For open hearts, compassion, courage to build relationships, and opportunities this summer)

Discuss (20 mins)

Read the following passages out loud, as a group.

Luke 10:25-37

Matthew 22:36-40

Matthew 5:16

1 Peter 4:9

1. From the passages above, what stood out to you? Why were those impactful?
2. What were some of the ordinary yet compassionate things you noticed about the Good Samaritan and the way he loved his neighbor?
3. Read John 1:14. Eugene Peterson paraphrases this passage in modern language to say: "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." We too, in our own flesh and blood, can live incarnationally as image bearers through our neighboring. How might this verse and it's paraphrase inform the way you are present in your neighborhood?
4. Have you ever experienced meaningful love from a neighbor? What impact did it have?
5. What makes neighboring difficult in modern life? What are some ways you can bring those hurdles to the Lord in hopes that you can grow in hospitality?

- Neighbor Love Is Central to Following Jesus. Jesus connects loving God and loving neighbor inseparably. Neighbor love is not optional ministry for a few gifted people—it is foundational discipleship.
- A Neighbor Is Anyone God Places Near You. The Samaritan crossed social, ethnic, and personal boundaries to show mercy.
- Love Requires Presence. Being available matters.
- Small Acts Can Reveal God's Love. Neighbor love usually begins with simple consistency, not dramatic gestures.

NOTES:

Apply: Intentionally Pursuing Community (60 mins)

Personal Reflection (20 Minutes) Have everyone quietly journal or reflect on these questions.

Personal Reflection (Pick a few to reflect on)

1. Do I know the names of the people who live around me?
2. What keeps me from engaging neighbors?
3. When was the last time I intentionally showed hospitality?
4. Which neighbors might be lonely, overwhelmed, elderly, or in need of encouragement?
5. How might God want to use my home, yard, schedule, or presence this season?
6. What practical ways can Christians build trust before talking about faith?
7. What does authentic hospitality look like today?

Practice: "Map Your Mission Field" (15 Minutes)

Imagine if every Christian intentionally loved their neighbors for one summer. What could change?

Have everyone draw a simple map:

- Their house/apartment
- Nearby homes

Then write:

- Names they know
- Unknown homes
- Needs/prayer requests
- Possible connection ideas (see list "50 ways to connect with your neighbors")

Guided Prayer 20 minutes (Consider going through the guide on the next page as a group)

Close (10 minutes)

Group Challenge for the Summer: What would faithfulness look like—not perfection, just intentionality? What kinds of summer gatherings or rhythms could create natural connection? *See our list of 50 ways to connect with your neighbor

Invite the group to choose 2–3 simple goals:

- Learn three neighbors' names
- Invite someone over
- Host a casual summer gathering
- Deliver baked goods or popsicles
- Pray weekly for neighbors
- Offer practical help
- Spend intentional time outside

Neighboring is not about performing or forcing spiritual conversations. It is about faithfully embodying the love of Jesus where God has already placed us. Small acts done consistently can deeply impact people over time.

Read Colossians 3:12–14 "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience..."

Finish with a final prayer of commissioning over the group for the summer season.

NEIGHBORING PRAYER GUIDE

(20 Min)

Oftentimes, even unintentionally, we as people have a hard time seeing beyond ourselves. It's easy to lose sight of how God views those He created in His image – you, your family, and even your neighbor. Just as someone once shared Christ with us, we now have the opportunity to reflect who He is to those around us with compassion and love. Take this time before the Lord asking Him to reveal what He may be stirring in your heart by the Holy Spirit to take steps toward others. This is not meant to produce guilt or shame, but to invite you into what the Lord is already doing in your neighborhood.

Spend some time praying that God would give you eyes to truly see the people around you, and courage to move toward others in love. (10min)

Eyes to See (Genesis 1:26-31, Matthew 9:35-38, Philippians 2:1-4, Colossians 4:5-6, Psalm 139:14):

- In what ways have I honestly been seeing others around in my neighborhood? How have I not seen others in the way the Lord does? What is the Lord inviting me into as it relates to how I see others?

Courage to Connect with Others (2 Timothy 1:6-8, Mark 10:25, 1 John 4:7-21, 1 Corinthians 10:24, Romans 15:1-2):

- What is currently keeping me from engaging with my neighbors? What are some fears or insecurities that I may have? How is my life currently oriented to be able to connect with others in my neighborhood? How can I boldly and confidently proclaim Christ in me?

Spend some time praying that God would open doors for meaningful connection in your neighborhood and form your home into a place of peace, hospitality, and gospel presence. (10min)

Open Doors & Specific Neighbors (1 Peter 3:15, Matthew 25:34-40, Galatians 6:9-10, Ephesians 2:10, Luke 14:12-14):

- Who are the specific neighbors God has placed around me, and where might He already be opening opportunities for connection, hospitality, or friendship with them? What needs or burdens might I be overlooking, and how may God be inviting me to participate in His love for them through prayer, presence, and compassion?

Home to Become a Place of Peace (Jeremiah 29:7, 1 Corinthians 10:24, Romans 12:9-13, Galatians 5:13, Hebrews 13:16, 1 John 3:16-17):

- What kind of atmosphere does my home currently create for others? In what ways could my home become more welcoming, safe, generous, and centered on the peace of Christ? How can the gospel shape the rhythms, conversations, and hospitality of my household and others so that people experience the love and presence of Jesus through it?

As you end this time, remember that loving your neighbor is not about having all the right words or carrying the weight of changing people on your own. God is already at work around you, inviting you to simply be present, available, and faithful. Trust that the Holy Spirit can use ordinary conversations, simple hospitality, and small steps of obedience to reflect the love of Christ in powerful ways.

50 FUN WAYS TO CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS THIS SUMMER

SIMPLE CONVERSATION STARTERS & EVERYDAY GESTURES

1. Wave and introduce yourself by name when you see someone outside.
 2. Compliment a neighbor's garden, dog, porch décor, or plants.
 3. Ask for a local recommendation like tacos, coffee, or hiking spots.
 4. Offer extra fruit, herbs, or vegetables from your kitchen or garden.
 5. Bring over cookies or popsicles during a heat wave.
 6. Leave a handwritten "nice to meet you" note for new neighbors.
 7. Put chairs in the front yard instead of the backyard for a week.
 8. Start a "borrow box" with tools, books, or sports gear.
 9. Offer to water plants while neighbors travel.
 10. Create a tiny free library or puzzle exchange.
 11. Share extra flowers cut from your yard.
 12. Bring cold bottled water to neighbors working outside.
 13. Ask older neighbors if they need help carrying groceries or yard work.
 14. Learn neighbors' pets' names and keep treats handy.
 15. Start casual conversations during evening walks.
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FRONT YARD & PORCH HANGOUT IDEAS

16. Host a front-yard lemonade hour.
 17. Put out a cooler of sparkling water and invite passersby to stop.
 18. Have porch coffee mornings on weekends.
 19. Create a sunset chair circle where neighbors can drop in casually.
 20. Host a driveway dessert night with pie or ice cream.
 21. Set up lawn games in the front yard for open play.
 22. Have a weekly "bring your own chair" hangout.
 23. Play mellow music outside during golden hour and invite conversation.
 24. Set up a sidewalk chalk station for kids and adults.
 25. Put out bubbles, frisbees, or soccer balls for spontaneous play.
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FOOD & HOSPITALITY IDEAS

26. Host a taco night where everyone brings one ingredient.
27. Organize a neighborhood potluck picnic.
28. Hold an ice cream sundae social.
29. Start a monthly soup-and-bread exchange.
30. Host a pancake breakfast outdoors.
31. Have a watermelon-cutting party on a hot evening.
32. Organize an international foods night where everyone shares a dish.
33. Host a backyard BBQ with simple picnic seating.
34. Invite neighbors for s'mores around a fire pit.
35. Do a progressive dinner where each house hosts one course.

THEME NIGHTS & SEASONAL EVENTS

36. Outdoor movie night with blankets and popcorn.
 37. Backyard karaoke night.
 38. Summer Olympics with silly games and relay races.
 39. Retro 90s night with nostalgic snacks and music.
 40. Tropical luau night with Hawaiian shirts and mocktails.
 41. White party where everyone wears white clothing.
 42. Neighborhood trivia night.
 43. Board game night outdoors under string lights.
 44. Campfire storytelling night.
 45. Stargazing evening with blankets and hot cocoa.
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ACTIVITY-BASED WAYS TO CONNECT

46. Start an evening walking club.
 47. Organize neighborhood bike rides.
 48. Host a community yard sale day together.
 49. Plan a park meetup with frisbee, volleyball, or pickleball.
 50. Organize a neighborhood clean-up followed by snacks or drinks.
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TINY GESTURES THAT BUILD COMMUNITY FAST

- Learn people's names quickly
- Remember pets' names
- Offer sunscreen or bug spray at gatherings
- Keep extra chairs outside
- Share leftovers after parties
- Ask neighbors about their hobbies
- Celebrate small wins ("Congrats on the garden!")
- Invite people even if they usually say no
- Keep things casual instead of over-planned
- Be outside more often — visibility creates connection

WAYS TO MAKE ANY GATHERING FEEL WELCOMING

- Keep events short (2–3 hours is perfect)
- Tell people it's okay to "just stop by"
- Have one simple activity so nobody feels awkward standing around
- Use name tags if several neighbors don't know each other yet
- Invite people personally when possible instead of only posting online
- Don't worry about perfect hosting — relaxed hosts make relaxed guests

RESOURCES

NEIGHBORING ARTICLES/RESOURCES



[RESOURCE GUIDE FOR THE NEIGHBORING-FOCUSED LIFE GROUP](#)

BOOKS:



[The Art of Neighboring](#)



[The Art of Neighboring Small Group Study Guide](#)



[Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God](#)



[When Helping Hurts Video series](#)

ARTICLES:



[To Love Your Neighbor, You Must Know Your Neighbor](#)



[Reaching Our Neighbors with the Gospel](#)



[Share God's Love With Your Neighbors](#)



[How Can I Share the Gospel with My Neighbor?](#)



[Benefits of Being a Good Neighbor](#)



[Strangely Hospitable: What Sets Apart a Christian Home](#)



[Loving Difficult Neighbors Isn't Optional](#)

SERVE OPPORTUNITIES: NEIGHBORING BEYOND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Martin Park Summer VBS • Fresno Mission • City Center • City Church

[TOOLS: 15 SEC TESTIMONY](#)

