



Joining God in your neighborhood

Designed by Stephanie O'Brien
Illustrated by Steve Thomason

God is moving right around us. In our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools and city centers. If we believe this is true, then an amazing invitation is extended to us:

To join God and participate in God's mission in these spaces!

The "Neighborhood Crawl" is a fun way to join God in our neighborhoods. We define neighborhood as the ordinary spaces in which you spend most of your time where others are present with you consistently. **For many this is the neighborhood in which they live. For others, that may be their workplace or school.**

So grab the map, post it where you can see it and dedicate eight weeks to try out eight intentional steps and you will be participating in The Neighborhood Crawl! **This is not about ADDING to your schedule, but about being more intentional in what you area ALREADY doing!**

When you complete a step, even if it's not in the order of the map, put a sticker by it so you can measure your progress!

1 Meet Your Neighbors - Get some new names of people you haven't met yet. Perhaps this is someone near where you live or work!

2 Listen To Your Neighbors - Make a point to ask someone how they are and take time to listen. See if you can hear some of a neighbor's story! In a noisy world, listening to others is a gift!

3 Pray For Your Neighbors - Now that you know some names and stories, take time to pray for your neighbors. Perhaps you'll have an opportunity to pray for them in person. But you can pray with your family or roommates as well.

4 Receive From Your Neighbors - Sometimes we focus on offering something to others, that is a great idea, but what would it look like to ask for a cup of sugar? Or to borrow some lawn care equipment instead of buying something.

5 Rest With Your Neighbors - Try to spend time in your front yard, or a nearby park in order to engage with someone who you might not see if you were behind a fence. Bring a book you enjoy to a local coffee shop, but be on the lookout for neighbors who you may meet!

6 Eat With Your Neighbors - You eat three meals a day, 21 a week, 252 this summer! What if ONE or TWO meals were with a neighbor or a group of neighbors!?

7 Celebrate With Your Neighbors - What celebrations are already going on in your neighborhood that you can join in? National Night Out is a good one in most places. Could you host a celebration for even a couple neighbors to celebrate a holiday, birthday, or other event?

8 Tell Stories To Your Neighbors - God has done a lot in our lives. There are seasons where we more easily see what God is doing. Take courage and ask God for opportunities to share the stories of what Jesus has done in your life and then go for it!



The Neighborhood Crawl

1

MEET ONE NEW NEIGHBOR

2

ASK ABOUT THEIR STORY

3

GO FOR A PRAYER WALK

4

RECEIVE HELP OR ADVICE FROM A NEIGHBOR

5

REST WHERE YOU SEE NEIGHBORS

6

EAT WITH A NEIGHBOR

7

CELEBRATE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

PARTY

8

TELL THE STORY OF GOD MOVING!

THOMASON



Step 1 - Define Your Experiment

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to try to meet new neighbors this summer OR try to deepen your relationship with your neighbors.

The reality is, there is no right way to do this. So the best thing to do is to determine an experiment that you want to try. The experiment should answer the question:

What is God doing in my neighborhood/workplace and in the lives of my neighbors/coworkers?

Here are some examples of an experiment. But the BEST experiment is YOUR own and an idea that you prayed about and feel God led you to!

- Go to the same coffee shop to work on the same day of the week all summer.
- Join a neighborhood running club/kickball/chess league/etc.
- Map your block and try to get as many names as possible.
- Host a block party.
- Invite coworkers to eat lunch together every Wednesday in your office.
- Try to go to the farmers market every week at the same time.
- Invite the parents of your kid's soccer/baseball/art camp to get together socially once or twice outside of supporting the kid's team.

The experiment should be:

1. Simple
2. Realistic
3. Actionable

Tip:
Just push yourself a little bit past your comfort zone - don't try to obliterate your comfort zone :-)

Once you determine your experiment write it down on the back of this sheet in the step 1 box!

Step 2 - Determine Your Steps

Without clear steps, we often don't step into new things! Here is where you outline the steps you will take to make sure you actually try out your experiment. You will learn new things as you do this experiment; that is the goal!

The only failed experiment is one that you never actually try!

Steps might look like:

1. Chat with my family/roommates about joining in on the experiment.
2. Get out your calendar and save any dates needed for the experiment.
3. Determine the level of intentionality needed: do we need to sign up for something? Communicate something? Get more information?
4. Name any action that you will take: Try to get all the names of those on the kickball team... gather emails from the soccer team parents... print out invites for the block party.

Tip: Write down all the steps! Even if they seem obvious, the steps will help you actually put the experiment into action!

Once you determine your steps write them down on the back of this sheet in the step 2 box!

Step 3 - Analyze Results

Put this sheet up on your fridge or wall with the side showing your experiment and steps facing out. This will remind you to try the experiment out!

When will you be finished with the experiment? Put a time in your calendar to get together with others you are experimenting with, or just on your own to analyze what happened.

**Seriously.
Put it in your calendar right now. :-)**

When the time comes, ask these questions:

1. What did we see God doing in our neighborhood/workplace?
2. What did we see God doing in the lives of our neighbors/coworkers?
3. Who did I feel like God was leading me to connect with?
4. Who felt like they were not the people God was calling me to?
5. What was harder than I thought it would be?
6. What was easier than I thought it would be?
7. What are next steps to continue the learning that I gained from this experiment?

The most important thing is that we LEARN from our experiments. The only way to learn is to review what happened and write down what we have learned.

Once you determine your results write them down on the back of this sheet in the step 3 box!

The Art of Neighboring



SUMMER EXPERIMENT!

Step 1 - Define Your Experiment

Read the instructions on the back of this sheet.
Once you determine your experiment, write it
down in this box!

Step 2 - Determine Your Steps

Once you determine your steps
write them down in this box!

Step 3 - Analyze Results

The most important thing is that we **LEARN**
from our experiments. The only way to learn
is to review what happened and write down
what we have learned.

Once you determine your results, write them
down in this box!



25 Ideas for Living Missionally In Your Neighborhood

I have found that it is often helpful to have practical ideas to start engaging the people around me. Most of the things on this list are normal, everyday things that many people are already doing. The hope is that we would do these things with Gospel intentionality. This means we do them:

- In the normal rhythms of life pursuing to meet and engage new people
- Prayerfully watching and listening to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working.
- Looking to boldly, humbly, and contextually proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

Below is a second list of 25 simple ways to engage your neighbors. Not all of these are for everyone, but hopefully there will be several ideas on the list that God uses to help you engage your neighbors:

1. Cook an extra casserole and give it to a neighbor
2. Buy an extra dozen donuts and give them to a neighbor
3. Start a compost pile and allow neighbors to dump their compost
4. Host a coffee and dessert night
5. Organize and host a ladies craft night
6. Organize an effort for neighbors to help take care of elderly in neighborhood
7. Become a regular at your neighborhood pool/park
8. If you have a skill, let neighbors know that you can use it to help them for free
9. Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
10. Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood
11. Start hosting a play date weekly for other stay at home parents
12. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
13. Collect good will store items and offer to take them to goodwill
14. Have a front yard ice cream party in the summer
15. Start a sewing group
16. Attend an event already being hosted in your neighborhood and invite neighbors to join
17. Throw a July 4th or National Night Out block party
18. Start a neighborhood Facebook/Twitter/Google + group
19. Ask longtime residents to help you learn about the neighborhood
20. Offer to babysit neighbors kids so they can have a date night
21. Find out your neighbors birthdays and take them a card and baked goods on it
22. Setup a meet your neighbors night with drinks in your driveway/front yard
23. Ask your HOA or apartment complex if they need help with anything
24. Host a regular Saturday morning breakfast potluck
25. Host a sports game watching party