

Neighboring Tips

Whether you're just starting a neighborhood group or you've been part of one for years, here are some tips that can help you to neighbor well. This list certainly isn't complete and will grow over time. If you have a story of how you loved your neighbors, email it to neighbors@calvarynexus.org.

March + April – Easter – Ideas

- Organize a neighborhood Easter egg hunt.
- Invite kids and their parents from the neighborhood over to color eggs. You might want to use the Resurrection Eggs to show them the real meaning of Easter.
- Bring a basket of Sees Easter egg candies to each of your neighbors.
- Invite neighbors over for an Easter lunch or dinner. Ask them what Easter was like in their home growing up or what Easter means to them.
- Hold an Easter brunch for the neighborhood. You might want to do it in the front yard or public eating place at your apartment, so everyone feels welcome.
- Throw a children's springtime carnival.
- Bring flowers from your garden to your neighbors.
- Don't eat all the fruit from your trees; share some with your neighbors.
- Offer to walk your neighbors' dog(s). They might welcome the break and you might have a chance to meet more neighbors.
- Bring cut flowers to a shut-in in your neighborhood.
- Offer to take a wheelchair bound neighbor for a walk on a beautiful day.
- Start a neighborhood garden and bring the produce to your neighbors. You might want to put it in the front yard, so the neighbors watch the vegetables grow. It will become a conversation center for neighbors.
- Start a neighborhood lending library. You might want to build a book-box on a pole for the neighborhood or in a public place in your apartment building.
- Offer to help your neighbors do Spring cleaning, yard work, or help plant flowers.
- Look for needs in the neighborhood and ask if you can lend a hand.
- Put on neighborhood progressive dinner.

May + June – Memorial Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day – Ideas

- Invite your neighbors over for a Memorial Day barbecue. Arrange activities for the kids so they are included, like a bounce house, football, slip n' slide.
- Find out who the Veterans are in your neighborhood and think of something you could do for them that would show you appreciate their service.
- "Sunday Sundae". Neighbors gather for sundaes on Sunday.
- For kids: Leave May Day (May 1st) flower baskets, ring bell, and run away.
- Do something special for the mother in your neighborhood on Mother's Day like flowers, cards, or something else that would make them feel special for being a mother.

- Show fathers they are special too. Arrange a Fathers Day event. It might be a neighborhood basketball or baseball game, an annual Fathers Day jog or bike ride, or morning breakfast with lots of bacon.
- A service project to help a neighbor in need.

July + August – 4th of July – Ideas

- Throw a 4th of July neighborhood barbecue or invite them to a place where you can barbecue and watch the fireworks together.
- It is time to throw a neighborhood block party. Get everyone involved.
- Get all the neighbors involved in a free car wash at your house or a neighbor's house. The kids love to be involved.
- Organize a neighborhood ping pong or croquet tournament.
- Hold Vacation Bible School in your neighborhood or a local neighborhood park, inviting children. End the week of teaching and games with a carnival hosted by your church.
- Find out summer birthdays of people in your neighborhood and do something special for them.
- Outdoor movie night: Project a movie onto a garage or outdoor screen.
- Offer to bring in the mail or newspaper when a neighbor is on vacation.
- If new neighbors move in, throw a welcome party.
- Help with unkept lawns or the elderly in the neighborhood.
- Watch a major league baseball game together.
- Take walks or bike rides with neighbors.
- Labor Day barbecue.

Everyday Ideas

- Be intentional to get to know your neighbors' names. Remember you have neighbors where you live, work, study, and play.
- Hang out in front of where you live and visit with people as they walk by. Just being around creates opportunities to begin to develop relationships.
- Start praying for your neighbors. Pray for their needs, and pray for God to show you how to love your neighbors better.
- During the holiday season encourage neighbors by wishing them a "Merry Christmas." Invite neighbors to join you at a local church service celebrating Jesus' birth.
- Try going for a prayer walk or a regular walk in your neighborhood. Take a short walk and pray for the people that live in the houses you pass. As you see your neighbors on this walk, stop to say hi to them and learn their names if you haven't already.
- Discuss with your spouse, family, and/or neighborhood group how you can share God's love with your neighborhood (community) this Christmas season.
- Consider a neighbor where you live, work, study, or play that needs compassion. How might you show them compassion?
- Think about some of your neighbors that you are grateful for. This week, try to tell them how you feel about them.

- Pray and ask God to reveal a neighbor who is struggling with loneliness during the holidays. Call, text, knock on their door, or use your social media to seek to encourage them.
- Consider how you might share your resources to demonstrate God's love to a neighbor.
- Ask neighbors how they like their/your neighborhood.
- Make a list of neighbors where you live that you know by name. Pray for them, and ask God to help you add to the list.
- Ask your neighbor(s), "How could I be a better neighbor to you?"
- Share a meal with a co-worker or fellow student as a way to befriend and build relationship.
- Ask a neighbor what advice they would give to a couple. If they ask you the same question be prepared to share your ideas (as well as what you've learned from this study).
- What changes can you make to create margin in your life? How can you invest that time better to befriend and build relationships with your neighbors?
- Offer to pay for coffee or a meal for someone that you meet in a neighborhood coffee house or restaurant that you regularly frequent.
- Consider how you express your worship of God among your neighbors.
- Consider how your worship can more effectively cause your neighbors to be curious about Jesus.
- This week spend time in your neighborhood and wave at neighbors that you see. If they respond in a friendly manner look to introduce yourself and start to know your neighbor(s).
- Pray and look for opportunities to share with neighbors how the hope and truth of Jesus' resurrection has changed your life.
- Let's practice being people of prayer this week. Pray and ask God to help you love Him and neighbors better, and pray for God to help you to yield more of your life to Him. Pray with others (perhaps neighbors) and alone.
- As the weather is getting warmer your neighbors are likely to spend more time outdoors. Plan to spend more time outdoors in your neighborhood too. Consider walks in the neighborhood, playing at a local park, or simply spending time in front of your residence.
- Invite one of your neighbors to do something or go somewhere with you this week. Pray about and look for an opportunity to share God's invitation with them while you're together.
- My neighbor told me, "One of the most intimate things a person can do is to open their home to a neighbor for a meal." Pray and ask God to guide you to open your home to a neighbor to share a meal.
- Pray and ask God to give you an opportunity to share with a neighbor how the resurrection has changed your life.
- Let a neighbor know that you pray for your neighbors. Ask if there is anything that you can pray for on their behalf.
- Look to bond with someone over a common interest or activity. If your hobbies or pastimes allow you opportunities to interact with others, use these as a platform to befriend and build relationships.

- Summer months often provide great opportunities for you and your family to engage in recreational activities. Look to develop relationships with people where you (or your family) play.
- Look for an opportunity to serve God by serving a neighbor where you live, work, study, or play.
- Look for opportunities for your children to play with other kids in the neighborhood. Use those play games as bridges to befriend and build relationships with other families in the neighborhood.
- Discover a need in your community or neighborhood that God has called you to serve and volunteer there. Seek to serve in such a way that it glorifies God.
- Get outside in your neighborhood. Try to walk the dog, take a walk or visit the community pool during peak times and be intentional about introducing yourself and getting to know people.
- Go on a walk in your neighborhood this week. As you pass each house, pray for your neighbors that live inside (by name if you know their names). Pray that God would give you opportunities to love your neighbors.
- Many people host a BBQ as part of their summer plans. Consider hosting a BBQ for your neighbors, and also try to accept any invites from your neighbors for their gatherings.