

# 50 Neighboring Ideas

Adapted from *The Neighboring Church* Appendix by Brian Mavis and Rick Rusaw (pp. 171-175)

Let's become the best neighbors our neighbors have ever had. Here are several ideas. What are your ideas? Share them with us. Let's add to this list and then live it out!

1. Start with 1—Learn 1 name, pray 1 prayer, act 1 time in love. Every 1 counts!
2. Special dates are huge in neighboring. Birthdays. Anniversaries. Graduations. Learn and love!
3. Try to see your neighbors as Jesus sees them. What do you see differently?
4. A Plus One is anything you do for your neighbors that helps them experience the love of God.
5. Take some time today to think about one idea that could bring your neighbors together. Ready. Set. Go!
6. Pray for yourself today. Ask God to give you his heart for your neighbors.
7. It's not all up to you. Be faithful to loving your neighbors. God will take care of the results. Trust him.
8. Think about how you have been loved by others. Find a way to do that for your neighbor.
9. Think about how God has loved you. How can you love your neighbor like that?
10. Loving your neighbor is linked to loving God. How do you need to grow in loving God today?
11. Throw a party for your neighbors this summer. If you need help planning it, let's chat!
12. Have kids? Set up a lemonade stand and work it with them. Great family time. Awesome neighbor connections.
13. God put you where you live for a reason. Your unique qualities are needed in your neighborhood. Go love!
14. Want to learn how to share the story of God better?  
Check this out: [www.gcmcollective.org/story-training](http://www.gcmcollective.org/story-training)
15. Bring the backyard festivities to the front yard. It will make a huge difference.
16. If your neighbor is out, go out with them. "How are you doing?" "What are you up to?" will get the ball rolling.
17. See a need. Meet a need. See a need. Meet a need. See a need. Meet a need. Repeat.
18. Maybe you are the answer to the prayer you are praying for your neighbor. Love is an action.
19. Take a regular neighborhood walk with your family. Walk slowly and take time to meet and talk to neighbors.
20. Neighboring is easier when you do it with friends. Who around you would be a good partner? Find a person of peace. Team up! #havefunwithfriends
21. Connect! Connect! Connect! Facebook. E-mail list. GroupMe. Phone tree. Nextdoor.com. Neighborhood newsletter. Do it!
22. What do you love to do? Invite a neighbor to do it with you (camp, garden, sports, knit, cook, movies).
23. Set aside a meal or two a month to share with your neighbors. Plan it. Schedule it. Be intentional. Try doing Suppers of Six. Ask what it is and we'll tell you.
24. Pull together neighborhood sportsball activities with kids and/or adults.
25. Everyone loves receiving gifts. Find a way to bless someone through gift giving. Doesn't have to be fancy!
26. Stay in the know. The more you know the more you can step into the lives of others with love.
27. Love your neighbors in ways they won't ever see. Find ways to bless in secret. This matters too!
28. If your neighbor makes you mad. Pray for them. If you make your neighbor mad. Stop it!
29. Gospel means good news. How can your life be actual good news to your neighbors?

30. Walk your dog with neighboring intentions. Walk a little slower and stop to visit with neighbors as you pass.
31. Plan special events to invite neighbors to. Examples include Friendsgiving Feast, Easter Brunch, Trick-or-Treating, etc.
32. Use the existing infrastructure in your neighborhood to engage your neighbors. E.g. Parks, pools, schools, community centers, etc.
33. Neighboring is also about receiving. If you have a need, ask a neighbor for help. Great way to connect! Accept the local hospitality.
34. End your conversation with neighbors like this: "And if you ever need anything, just know we're here!"
35. We love our neighbors, not to make them Christians, but because we are followers of Jesus. Pure love.
36. Love your neighbors who are in the military well. Go to redeployments and other significant ceremonies on post. Care for families during deployments. Tell your story and don't leave the faith parts out. It's part of who you are. Share confidently and with humility.
37. Don't give up loving people. Sometimes love takes a long time to sink in. Keep loving people every day.
38. Make yourself present in the neighborhood. Make yourself an easy person to bump into.
39. Be completely you in front of your neighbors. There's no reason to put on any kind of mask. Authenticity is key.
40. Setup a neighborhood childcare co-op. Date night childcare swapping is also great. Get to know families and get childcare for your family too!
41. Pick up trash around your neighborhood while out on walks.
42. Be aware of nudges from God. When he nudges, listen. When you hear him, obey. God is the best neighbor! Follow the leading of the Spirit.
43. If someone invites you to their party, go! That means they like you. It's a good thing. Go love them!
44. You may not get anything in return for all your neighboring. Love your neighbors anyway.
45. A Plus One is anything you do for your neighbors that gives them a sense of good news around them. What good news can you see and share this week?
46. Jesus worked more at being interested in others than being interesting to others. This week, be interested.
47. Invite your neighbor to something. Manhattan, KS and the surrounding communities have lots of options that are already planned and paid for. Show up and bring a neighbor!
48. Be ready to offer hospitality at any time! Keep your pantry stocked with snacks. Keep your fridge stocked with beer. Keep a couple bottles of wine on hand.
49. Throw a block party. The City of Manhattan will put up a barricade for you for twenty bucks!
50. Ask your kids what ideas they have to neighbor well...and then go for it...with them!

What other ideas do you have? Let us know! Let's keep the ideas coming and then act in response to the Spirit's prompting.