

# 5 STEPS TO LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

## 1 LOVE GOD

**Begin by cultivating a love for God.** The first part of the great commandment is **“Love God.”** It is from the abundance of God’s love and grace that you will be filled with the love and grace for those around you. It is through communion with the Father through the Spirit that you will be enabled to live like the Son. So, keep first things first. Begin with your Bible and with prayer. Paul’s prayer for the Philippian church was for their love to be fueled by knowledge and to overflow into good works. (*Philippians 1:9-11*)

## 2 PRAY

**Spend some time in prayer.** It may be 5 minutes; it may be 50. God is after your heart and after your humility. A few things to pray for are:

- God to be glorified through your life in your home and in your neighborhood
- Courage and wisdom to follow God’s guidance as you seek to love your neighbors
- Opportunities today to meet a need and interact a neighbor
- For God to bring to mind someone He wants you to contact
- Family members near and far
- Church family
- Civil authorities and medical professionals
- Senior citizens
- Orphans and widows

## 3 IDENTIFY

**Identify your neighbors.** Is it your small group? Your connection group? A senior adult in our church? Your literal neighbors? Someone from work who is immunocompromised? Make a list so you don't forget.

## 4 CONTACT

After you've prayerfully identified your neighbors, **begin to make contact** with some of them (because you may not be able to contact all of them). A few ways to do this are:

- Phone call
- Text message
- Facebook/Instagram
- Drop off a letter to your neighbors (*scroll down to see Pastor Daniel's example*)
- Take a walk around your neighborhood and say "hi" from a distance
- Sit on your front porch and say "hi" as people walk by
- Stop and talk to your neighbor if you're both outside
- Take a drive around the block/sub-division, roll the windows down, and interact

Depending on the relationship you have with each person, the conversation will look different. And that is okay. But as you talk with people let them know a) you're here to help if they need anything and b) let them know you are praying for them and their families.

## 5 SERVE

As you continue to love God, pray for yourself and those around you, identify your neighbors, and make contact, **God will open doors for you to serve.** The need may be physical or spiritual. But God will place you in a position to be the grace of God to those around you. A few ways you may end up serving those around you are:

- Praying for others
- Picking something up at the grocery store
- Sharing food if your neighbor is running low
- Buying groceries for the neighbor who lost their job.
- Helping someone fill out unemployment paperwork
- Letting someone borrow your car
- Picking up medicine from the pharmacy

# LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

## EXAMPLE LETTER

***Below is the letter the Carr family passed out to their neighbors.***

To our Neighbors,

Hi! We are the [LAST NAME] family at [ADDRESS]. We have the two swings in our front yard and [#] children. We are just giving this note to about 5-10 of our neighbors who are older and/or have special needs right now.

If you are afraid to get out into the public because of the Coronavirus to pick up groceries or medicines, please let us do it for you. There is always an adult home here to help you out so you won't have to get out in the germs! Our names are [FIRST NAME] XXX-XXX-XXXX and [FIRST NAME] XXX-XXX-XXXX. Please text or call anytime with your name and address and need! We would love, in the name of Jesus, to help you stay out of the stores and away from germs in this season of sickness!

In Christ,

Individual or family name