



## How To Love Your Neighbors During COVID

### The Good Neighbor Project

---

*You can bring Jesus to your neighborhood with your radical love.*

#### **COVID-19 is big, but God is bigger.**

COVID-19 is still wreaking havoc, and nearly everyone is being impacted. If you're feeling like there's just nothing you can do about that, think again. There *is* something you can do. And lucky for us, Jesus gave us a playbook exactly for times like these.

He said: "A new command I give you: **Love one another.** As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

It sounds simple. Love one another. But in reality that's no small feat. As we see our neighbors fighting illness and battling loneliness, let's rally around them in love.

#### **1. Really, really check-in**

A way you can love your neighbors and friends is by checking on them. Really check on them. Even if you've done this before, do it again. Ask them how they're doing and then really listen to their answers. Don't let them get away with "fine."

That conversation is a doorway into deeper connection. As you listen, try to understand their needs. See how you can help them.

#### **2. Safe and simple gifts**

After checking-in, see if your neighbor needs a meal (to feed their bodies or their hearts). Do they need a cup of coffee delivered (half-caff Americano, please)? Do they just need you to be willing to ask? Maybe they would just love a free air-hug.

Once you understand their needs, try to step into those spaces. *That* is how we rally in love.

#### **3. Enlist some troops**

If your neighbor's needs are bigger than one person or family can handle, consider bringing other families in to help too. Now you're meeting needs AND building community. Way to go, neighborhood multi-tasker!

#### **4. If you're sick or struggling, ask for the help you need**

If you're personally sick or in need, you can still be a good neighbor. There are so many folks that need something but can't ask for it. They have trouble receiving help when it's offered. You can be a model of how to let people into your needs and how to accept their love. **Send a text. Make that call.** Let someone know that you're struggling. **Then say "yes"** to that meal/coffee/air hug in the yard.

In this cold and dark season we see our neighbors less, and it's easy to turn inward. Let's be intentional about showing each other Jesus' love right now. Don't miss this practical opportunity to be a force for good in your 'hood or ask for help when you need it.