

18 WAYS TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

ANY LIST OF WAYS TO **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR** STARTS WITH A REALLY BIG ASSUMPTION, WHICH IS THAT YOU ACTUALLY KNOW THEM. YOU MAY HAVE TO START WITH LEARNING MORE THAN JUST THEIR NAMES. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- 1 PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR NEIGHBORS.** One of the greatest things you can give to someone is your "attention." Pay attention to everyday details of your neighbor's lives. You can do this without being a nosey neighbor. Intentionally look for ways serve them and who to show love.
- 2 LOOK FOR THINGS YOU HAVE IN COMMON.** It might be that you discover that both of you face challenges with teenagers or aging parents. How might you learn from and support each other?
- 3 LOOK FOR INTENTIONAL ACTS OF KINDNESS** you can do, particularly on significant anniversaries. If your neighbors have experienced loss of some kind during the past year, anniversaries of those losses are often difficult. Expressions of support, encouragement, or remembrance can be meaningful.

- 4 INCLUDE THEM IN A FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITY.** You could invite them to a child's birthday party, a Christmas meal, or a Fourth of July picnic.
- 5 SHOW CONCERN AND PROVIDE** care for their pets. When people travel, boarding a pet can be expensive. Offering to feed or just check on their pets communicates compassion and concern.
- 6 OFFER TO ASSIST WITH LAWN CARE.** Particularly if your neighbor is older helping with on-going or major lawn care relieves a burden from your neighbor.
- 7 A SIMPLE PHONE CALL** is not a small gesture. In this day of text and e-mails rarely do people pick up the phone and talk with each other. Your call to your neighbor may be the only call they will get all day.
- 8 ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR HOW YOU CAN PRAY FOR THEM** and then do it. Occasionally ask them about their request and assure them you are praying for them.
- 9 CREATE A NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY** with everyone's contact info as well as kids and pets. It will give all your neighbors a sense of mini community.

For Kids

- 1 WRITE YOUR TEACHER A CARD** THANKING HER FOR GOING THE EXTRA MILE.
- 2 BAKE GOODIES AND MAKE CARDS** AND DROP THEM OFF AT LOCAL DOCTORS' OFFICES.
- 3 "WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HOMEWOOD" FACEBOOK GROUP** HAS HAD SEVERAL TIMES WHERE THEY HAVE DONE SNACK DRIVES FOR THE ER DEPARTMENT AT UAB.
- 4 PRAYER WALK YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**
- 5 LEAVE A NOTE OR POSTER ON YOUR MAILBOX FOR YOUR MAIL CARRIER.**
- 6 FACETIME WITH A FAMILY MEMBER FAR AWAY OR NEIGHBOR NEXT DOOR.**
- 7 MAKE A VIDEO RECITING SCRIPTURE OR PRAYING FOR A NEIGHBOR AND TEXT IT TO THEM.**
- 8 DRIVE AROUND AREA HOSPITALS PRAYING FOR THE STAFF AND THOSE SICK INSIDE.**
- 9 MAKE A POSTER THAT SAYS "I AM THANKFUL YOU ARE MY NEIGHBOR" AND LEAVE IT ON THEIR FRONT DOOR.**

