

Day 1 – Our Neighbors

Our neighbors are Atheists, Islamic, Buddhists, Shinto, Hindi, the prostitute, the alcoholic, the gambler, the person that is not faithful in their marriage, the abuser, and the homeless person. Our neighbors voted for the other political party, allow rainbow flags in their yard, and allow their children to stay up long after you've put yours to bed. Our neighbors drive past church on Sunday and head for the golf course and bar. Our neighbor's skin color is different, they possess different values, and they may never come to church or your prayer meeting. Nevertheless, they are our neighbors, and we have a few of the most important things in common: 1) God created them and 2) Jesus died for them. How we express the love of Christ is a testament to the very belief we hold so dear. That Jesus would have gone to the cross for each one of us. We have accepted Him as King and now we want to love others well, so they come to know Him. You might be the only "Jesus" that is willing to be near; you might be the missing piece for them.

Read: Day 1 – Acts 17: 26-27, John 1:14, James 2: 2-4, Galatians 3:28

Reflect: Where is it difficult for you to love or even like your neighbor? Tell God and ask Him to help open your eyes.

Let's Pray: Abba Father, we thank you for your goodness to us. For your love and for your grace and mercy. Lord, you have been so faithful. Father, we ask that you give us your eyes and your heart for our neighbors. Where society and our families have built up walls and structures of divisions, we ask that you help tear them down. Lord, we ask for help to transcend boundaries, to get out of our comfort zones and to reach out to our neighbors. Reset our hearts, Lord. Transform our way of thinking. Lord, we look to you as the model of love, grace, and mercy for our neighbors. And Lord we look forward to neighbors that stay neighbors, but our hearts rejoice that some might become brothers and sisters. In your name Jesus, Amen

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.

Day 2 – Your neighborhood

Your presence in your neighborhood makes a difference. We have the Holy Spirit living inside of us. The very power that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside each of us. We know that where God exists things change. Your very presence is the very essence of Jesus in your neighborhood. You can shed light, peace, and joy. You can befriend the grumpy neighbor. You can share a word of encouragement with the single mom or caregiver that's had a stressful day. You can remind that teen that while it all seems difficult, hard times won't last and that they have a lot to live and look forward to. You can share your faith and family values with your neighbor and learn about theirs. Invite your neighbors to dinner or a cold drink as the hot temperatures approach. You might discover you have more in common than not. More importantly, as you get to know your neighbors you can pray for them. You don't need or want anything in return. Not even their friendship (although that would be nice.) You can just pray God's blessing on them and for their eyes and hearts to be opened to the One that created and loves them. Let God do the rest.

Read: Day 1 – Galatians 5:14, Luke 5:29, John 13: 34-35, John 17:20-21

Reflect: Think about your neighborhood. What would you change? Who would you talk to and get to know? Ask God to give you a beautiful and holy curiosity for your neighborhood. Your presence is a gift.

Let's Pray: Lord, we come before you asking you to remind us of who we are in you. Lord, help us to never look away from our neighbors' pain and to celebrate their joy. Lord our heart's desire is to align with you and to see everyone profess Jesus as Lord. Until then Lord, help us to be tenacious with our love, our truth, and our commitment to viewing others through your eyes and with your heart. Lord help us to remember what you saved us from...and then help us to have similar compassion and grace for others. Let our light shine brightly. Let your very presence in us be a magnet. Help us to see our neighborhoods flourish and grow. Bring your life. Bring your very presence into all the spaces that need you and create divine appointments for us to walk into. Bless you Jesus. We trust you to do it. Amen.

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.

Day 3 – Your Community

God is at work in our community. The truth is that He is at work in your community. God is in the schools, the churches, the parks, the pools, the gas stations, the grocery stores, the restaurants, the hospitals, and the UPS location. God is at Starbucks and McDonald's! When you visit any of these spaces stop and see the Lord going before you. He wants to bring new life to the people and places in our communities. Let's pray for wisdom, health, peace, and safety in these spaces. Let's pray that relationships will flourish and grow, and that joy will abound. In your community there are many that have a lot and many that are struggling. Let's pray for God's provision for the vulnerable and needy. Pray for the brokenhearted. Pray for kindness. And pray for the churches. The Church has always been a pillar and a beacon of light. May it continue to be so.

Read: Day 1 – Matthew 5:43-48, Acts 17: 26-27, Psalm 22:26,

Reflect: Where do you see God at work in your community? Where do you want to see God work in your community?

Let's Pray: Father God help us to see you at work in our community. Lord, we ask that you bless our communities. That homes would have joy, that businesses would flourish, that our schools would be places where children are built up and learn, let our hospitals and care homes be safe havens for those in need. God, we ask for those who work in our community that their commitment to the location would be strong with ownership and joy. Lord gives us tenderness and compassion for those struggling and show us how we can intercede and disrupt the status quo. Lord be near. Thank you for our communities, Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.

Day 4 – Our City

You are planted in your city for a purpose. God has called you to this place, for this time. God is able and willing to transform our cities. The church is a significant part of this transformation. God is inviting us into his transforming work. At times evil seems to be winning but we rejoice because we know that God has already won. God is not removed from our cities. God is and has always been on the move and its more evident now than ever. Revival is here and now. There is a holy appetite for change, for something that lasts and won't fade away. The Lord is awakening his people to stand up and lead the way. In your city, can you see prisons housing less people, can you see hospitals dealing with less violence, can you see schools being peaceful and less incidents of violence, can you see neighborhoods being revitalized? God's presence is here. He is moving with justice and kindness. He is doing amazing things. He is able. Let's intercede on behalf of our city.

Read: Day 1 – Matthew 5:14-16, Ezekial 48:35, Isaiah 60:1-3, Micah 6:8

Reflect: When you reflect on the city in which you live what would you ask of God? As you go about your daily schedule tomorrow how can you and your family commit to praying for your city? Name a few ways and places that you can pray.

Let's Pray: Father God thank you for loving our city! Thank you for being present. God, you tell us that we have everything we need in you. So, we stand on that promise, and we ask you to help ignite the fire in our hearts for our cities. Let us stand on your truth that you have allowed us to proclaim freedom for those in bondage, release for the prisoners, to comfort those who mourn, to heal the ones who are sick and to restore the broken-hearted. We trust you for a new way in Christ Jesus which is the only way. Lord give us a heart for transformation and a commitment to pray for the cities in which we live. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.

Day 5 – Our State

God loves the state of Illinois. We can proclaim loudly and boldly that Jesus is Lord. He is Lord over every tribe and every nation. Over every city and every town. We can pray boldly for the leaders of our state. That they would turn to Jesus and that they would have a sensitivity for the things that move the heart of God. Let's pray that our leadership will be surrounded by Godly counsel and wisdom. We can pray for the government and those that hold office, the mayor, law enforcement, firefighters, EMS workers, nurses and community workers. Pray for the people at the polls where we vote and the toll booths. We can pray for a righteous lack of contentment until leaders bow their knee before the Lord. We can pray for fellow believers to rise and stand firm on their faith in Jesus and to not be afraid to speak the truth.

Read: Day 1 – 1 Timothy 2:1-3, 2nd Samuel 24:25, 2nd Chronicles 7:14

Reflect: When you reflect on the state of Illinois, what would you ask of God? As you go about your daily schedule tomorrow how can you and your family commit to praying for Illinois, its leaders and people? Name a few ways and places that you can pray. If you know of someone serving in the state write them a quick letter or email letting them know you are praying for them.

Let's Pray: Father God quicken our hearts to you. Father, we trust and know that you are at work in the most powerful of institutions. Lord help us to be committed to you and speaking your truth without compromise. God, you appoint Kings. God time belongs to you. Father move as only you can in our institutions to re-affirm that you are God and there is none like you. We submit to you Lord. You are good. Thank you Jesus – In your name. Amen.

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.