EVERY TABLE AN ALTAR

The Neighboring Map

A printable guide to learning names, practicing prayer, and making room for the people who live nearby.

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” — Mark 12:31 (NIV)

Start with the people already around you. You do not have to know everyone on your street to begin. Learn a name, remember a conversation, and look for a natural opportunity to share life.

01 Begin where you live

Jesus places love of neighbor at the center of faithful life (Luke 10:25–37). Neighboring becomes more concrete when we pay attention to the people whose doors are near ours.

Use the map on the next page to sketch the homes closest to yours. The squares are a starting point, not a precise street plan. If your building, road, or neighborhood looks different, use the blank map instead.

Three simple commitments

Learn: Introduce yourself and learn a neighbor’s preferred name.

Listen: Ask a real question and give the answer your attention.

Invite: When appropriate, extend a low-pressure invitation for coffee, a walk, or a meal.

A note about privacy

Keep this worksheet in a private place. Record only details people have willingly shared, and avoid sensitive information, gossip, or assumptions. People are more than entries on a map.

A prayer before you begin

Lord Jesus, open my eyes to the people around me. Help me notice them with patience and love. Give me courage to introduce myself and wisdom to honor each person’s boundaries. Amen.

02 Map the eight closest homes

Write names in the spaces as you learn them. Leave a space blank until you know. Adapt the layout to match your actual neighborhood.

NEIGHBOR Name: _____ _____	NEIGHBOR Name: _____ _____	NEIGHBOR Name: _____ _____
NEIGHBOR Name: _____ _____	OUR HOME _____	NEIGHBOR Name: _____ _____
NEIGHBOR Name: _____ _____	NEIGHBOR Name: _____ _____	NEIGHBOR Name: _____ _____

Try this first: learn one new name this week. A short introduction is enough.

03 Make your own map

Apartments, cul-de-sacs, farms, and winding streets rarely fit a grid. Sketch your own neighborhood below. Mark your home and the places where neighbors naturally cross paths.

Where do people naturally gather or pass one another?

04 From names to relationships

Use these prompts as an invitation to pay attention. There is no need to turn every encounter into a long conversation.

A few ways to begin

“I realized we’ve passed each other a few times, and I haven’t introduced myself. I’m ____.”

“How long have you lived around here?”

“We’re having a simple dinner next week. Would you like to join us? No pressure at all.”

A good next step might be returning a borrowed tool, sharing extra produce, offering practical help, or remembering something a neighbor mentioned. Let trust grow at its own pace.

Reflection

Who have I met recently, and what did I learn from our conversation?

Where could I offer an invitation without creating pressure?

05 Pray for your neighborhood

Prayer trains us to see neighbors as people loved by God. You can pray without knowing anyone’s circumstances, and you can ask permission before praying about a concern they have shared.

A weekly prayer rhythm

Monday: Pray for the homes nearest yours.

Tuesday: Pray for people who live alone or may feel isolated.

Wednesday: Pray for children, caregivers, and teachers in your area.

Thursday: Pray for neighbors whose lives or backgrounds differ from yours.

Friday: Pray for opportunities to offer practical care.

Weekend: Give thanks for a conversation or connection this week.

A prayer for the street

God of every household, bless the people who live around us. Where there is weariness, provide rest. Where there is need, raise up help. Teach us to be trustworthy neighbors, generous with our time, and willing to make room at our tables. Through Jesus Christ, amen.

Who would I like to pray for this week?

06 Your next 30 days

Choose realistic actions. One sincere relationship is worth more than a crowded checklist.

Week 1 | Notice

Walk your block or shared hallway. Introduce yourself to one person. Learn a name.

Week 2 | Remember

Say hello again. Ask a question that shows you remember your last conversation.

Week 3 | Serve

Look for a practical way to be helpful. Offer without assuming someone needs help.

Week 4 | Welcome

Consider inviting someone to coffee, a porch conversation, or an ordinary meal.

My first step this week:

A person I want to know better:

A table I can open this month:

Every table can become a place where the love of Jesus takes on a recognizable shape.