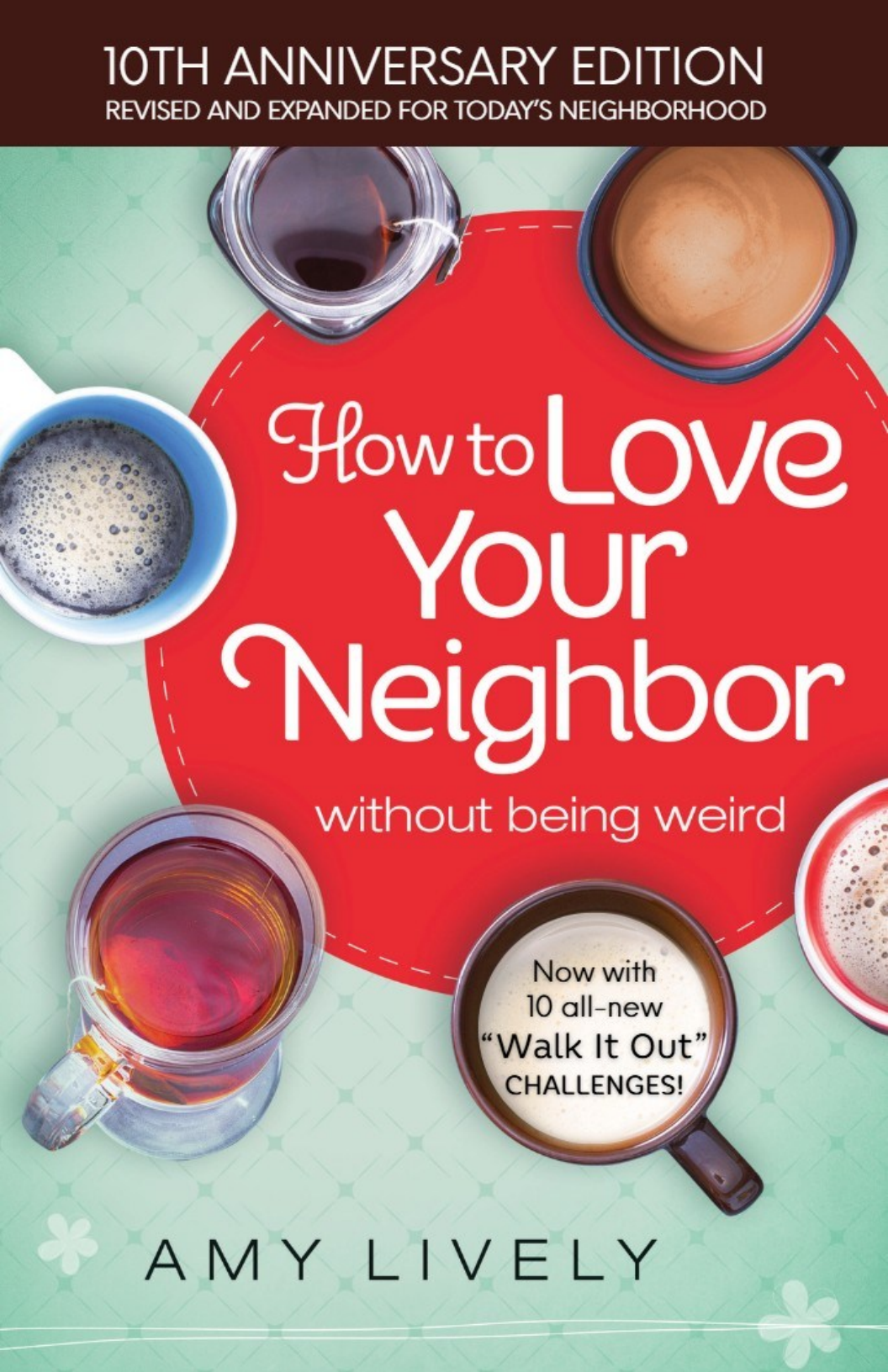


10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

REVISED AND EXPANDED FOR TODAY'S NEIGHBORHOOD



# How to Love Your Neighbor

without being weird

Now with  
10 all-new  
“Walk It Out”  
CHALLENGES!

AMY LIVELY



## Home Sweet Home

Every time my neighbors did laundry, my yard filled with soapy water. We shared a fence line but had never shared a conversation until the day I knocked on their door to complain. The woman who answered quickly deferred to her husband, an intimidating and rather grumpy looking man named Bill, who came outside with me to survey the sudsy situation. As we watched the water steadily trickle into my yard, Bill simply shrugged and said, “If this was my yard, I wouldn’t like it. I’ll take care of it.” Although it cost them several thousand dollars to repair their system, Bill and Betsy proved to be conscientious neighbors.

The only time I had been inside Bill and Betsy’s home was before they moved in during a realtor’s Open House. The poor realtor must have known that several of his visitors (and many of his website hits) would be nosy neighbors like me!<sup>1</sup> Of course, I was curious about how their house compared to ours in terms of size, style, and value—but what I really wanted to know was if you could see into our house. We were separated by our lawns, a fence, and some trees, but our kitchen windows faced each other.

Satisfied that my neighbors couldn't be too neighborly and see everything that happened in my house, I hadn't approached their front door again—not even to greet the family who moved in.

The previous owners had been strangers to me, and my “new” neighbors had lived there four or five years before the bubbly backyard dilemma forced our introduction . . . and I doubt we would have met otherwise. Betsy attends church faithfully, but she doesn't go to *my* church. We didn't have children the same age so we wouldn't have met at the park—besides, my neighborhood doesn't have a park. We don't have a corner coffee shop where we can conveniently bump into people. We don't have sidewalks or walking trails or bike paths. We didn't have a community building, homeowner's association, or neighborhood watch.

What we have are attached garages with doors that slide shut as soon as our cars are safely inside. We do our laundry inside and play our games inside and exercise inside. Our homes have become fortresses instead of friendly gathering places, and walled-in backyards have replaced welcoming front porches as desirable selling features.

“These suburbs—with our big houses and our big yards—became the new vision of utopia,” says Dr. Danny Avula, deputy director of the Richmond City Health Department in Virginia. “These front porches where we used to sit and connect with our neighbors gave way to back decks with privacy fences where we could keep to ourselves. We could drive into our neighborhoods, into our driveways and into our garages, and walk into our houses without ever having to talk to or even see another person.”<sup>2</sup>

With the ice broken and the drain mended, Betsy and I talked a couple more times. One weekend we collaborated to host yard sales on the same day. When my church challenged my husband and me to host a Bible study in our home and—*egad!*—invite a neighbor or two, I thought of Bill and Betsy. Would they come? Would they like it? Would they like *me*? There was only one way to find out, so I knocked on that door again, bravely faced Bill's

blusteriness, and invited my neighbors to Bible study. Betsy said yes!

When Betsy came to my home the first few times, she was shy and didn't share a whole lot. But soon her quick wit and wisdom emerged, and I learned that when Betsy spoke, I'd better listen! Beneath her shyness was a comic genius who always made me laugh and a strong woman of deep faith who always made me think. When Bill got sick, one of her only respites from being a full-time caregiver was the Bible study in my home. When Bill died, her neighbors and friends gathered around.

Betsy is a good friend and godly woman. I mean, that woman can pray! She prayed down the heavens, she prayed away sickness, she prayed with power—and she had been praying on the other side of my fence for four or five years! And cook: My, she is a good cook! Betsy continued to come to my house for Bible study, but it wasn't long before she began hosting her own prayer luncheons. Right in my backyard!

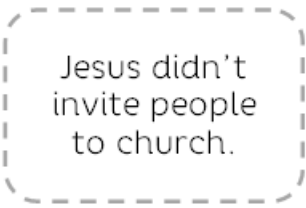
One thing I know for sure: If I hadn't intentionally invited Betsy to my home, our relationship would never have moved past the awkward you-flooded-my-backyard stage. When I got to know her, I told her I was surprised she agreed to come to our Bible study—and she broke my heart when she replied, “I was surprised you asked.”

## Bring Jesus Home From Church

Maybe you're wondering, *Why is it so important to invite neighbors to my home? My church has Sunday school and lots of different Bible studies throughout the week. Can't I just invite my neighbors to my church? Doesn't that count as loving my neighbor?*

Yes, it does—but it's weird. Would you invite a vegetarian to a pig roast? Would you invite the mom of preschoolers to a seminar on empty nest syndrome? We need to know our neighbors'

needs before we randomly invite them to church activities. Invitations to our traditional Mother's Day teas and Christmas and Easter events are trite unless we have a meaningful, personal connection and a real relationship. Yes—you can and you should invite your neighbors to church *once you get to know them*. Inviting a neighbor to church before you know anything about them is awkward, and worse—"Answering before listening is both stupid and rude" (Proverbs 18:13).



Jesus didn't  
invite people  
to church.

I work at a church; I think church is amazing; I love church. Churches are built for community, whether they are stained glass and stone cathedrals or converted warehouses with worn sofas. Your church is the perfect place for meaningful teaching, engaging worship, and incredible events. The church glorifies God and shows off His wisdom to the heavens and beyond (Ephesians 3:10). Jesus created the church; He loves and leads the church. He taught at the Jewish equivalent of "church" at the Temple in Jerusalem and the synagogues around Israel; His followers also continued to gather together in the first Christian churches after the Resurrection.

But Jesus didn't invite people to church. He didn't insist on their conversion or demand their attendance. Jesus defied religious rules and sat with sinners; in fact, Jesus was just as likely to hang out in nitty-gritty Israeli neighborhoods as the temple or Wednesday night Torah study.

Jesus went to the homes of Matthew, the much-hated tax collector; Peter, the strong-headed fisherman; a saintly woman named Mary, her bossy sister, Martha, and their once-dead brother Lazarus; a short guy with tall questions named Zacchaeus; Simon the leper; and Jairus, a leader at the synagogue—as well as the homes of many more unnamed families. He played with their children and ate at their tables. Jesus inspired huge crowds in public

places, but it was in the intimate setting of homes that His teaching came alive.

Later, when Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples and with the others who were gathered around, they asked him what the parables meant . . . In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

Mark 4:10, 34


Your home is where people put their feet up and let their guard down. It's where relationships go deep. There's something very different about gathering in a home instead of an institutional building. Home is where we can comfortably ask questions, share stories, and trade tips—it's a place for extended conversations that just don't happen in the narthex, vestibule, atrium, or coffee shop at church while children squirm and husbands' stomachs growl.

## Home Sweet Home

Here's why some of your neighbors may be more receptive to coming to your home than to your church:

**Your home is comfortable.** From finding a parking space to finding the bathroom, it can be intimidating to visit a new church. It's awkward for your neighbors to walk in alone. Will their children like it? When are they supposed to stand up, sit down, raise their hands, or kneel? Are there things people who aren't members aren't allowed to do, like take communion or say *Amen*? What should they wear? Is there a secret handshake? Will they be singled out as a visiting sinner? While it may be daunting to spend time with a neighbor they don't know well, at least they know how to behave in someone's home—so long as they keep their feet off the furniture, they're probably okay. Your home may look a little different from your neighbor's, but it is more comfortable and less threatening than a church.

**Your home is nonconfrontational.** It's sad to admit, but some women have been wounded by the church. You may be inviting them back to a place where they didn't experience the acceptance or forgiveness they craved. They may be scarred by the haughtiness, hypocrisy, or hostility they've encountered. Some of your neighbors may have been bored to tears or worked to death at church. If they've never been to church, they may have a bad impression of the people and practices they've seen portrayed in the media. But unless they've flooded your backyard, your neighbors probably feel relatively secure coming to your home. And if there are any fences that need mending between you and your neighbors, a sweet dose of hospitality can be the beginning of reconciliation.



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**Your home is convenient.** Some women can't squeeze another appointment onto their crowded calendars, but they can carve out time for a cup of coffee. Neighbors don't have to commute across town or find a parking place to visit your home, and a quick chat on the front porch over a glass of sweet tea is more appealing than putting on shapewear for a ladies tea. Convenient neighborhood friendships make life easier as well as safer—neighbors can drop in when they take the dog out, or come running when you're dangling from a ladder while cleaning the gutters. By definition, your neighbors live in the same proximity as you (remember *proximus*?)—you're just a stone's throw away, which comes in pretty handy when you need to borrow a pizza stone or the proverbial cup of sugar. As Proverbs says, "Don't leave your friends or your parents' friends and run home to your family when things get rough; better a nearby friend than a distant family" (Proverbs 27:10 MSG).

**Your home is a curiosity.** Do you ever watch those house hunter shows on television? I love to see how other people decorate and see what houses are like in different parts of the country. We're naturally curious about other people's homes: *What are they like inside? How are they like ours? How are they different?* We go to Open Houses in our neighborhoods and snoop at yard sales, so an invitation to actually come inside is practically irresistible!

**Your home simply isn't church.** Many of your neighbors already have wonderful church homes. When you gather in different homes instead of trying to get everyone to go to the same church, you will learn about other exciting ministries in your community. Neighborhood friendships build unity between churches as women from different congregations form friendships that cross denominational lines. Baptists and Episcopalians, Lutherans and Catholics, Assemblies of God, Christian Scientists and agnostics have all gathered in my living room together! We focus on what we have in common instead of arguing about what we do differently. We share various events and opportunities sponsored by different churches; we've also found new places to volunteer like food pantries and free stores.

## Open House, Open Heart

Enough of the guilt trip already: We know we should love our real neighbors, the people right next door. But how can we bridge the gap between *conviction* about loving our neighbors and actually having real *relationships*? How do we transition from wishful thinking about loving our neighbors to having women sipping coffee around our kitchen tables? We need Martha Stewart to team up with Billy Graham to write *Loving Your Neighbors for Dummies*!

I wasn't meeting people in my neighborhood by happenstance, so I literally knocked on their doors and invited them over for coffee at an Open House. Open Houses used to be much more common, especially at Christmastime, but today they're mostly used by realtors when people are moving *out* of a neighborhood. Why wait to have an Open House until you're closing up and moving away? The perfect time to open your home is when you're still living in it! I host an Open House once or twice a year, usually in January or September, and I enjoy the efficiency of meeting many neighbors at once. I serve coffee and cookies on paper plates—nothing fancy.

We need Martha Stewart to team up with Billy Graham to write **Loving Your Neighbors for Dummies!**

I don't ask for an RSVP to my Open Houses, so I never know how many people to expect. I want my neighbors to feel like they can stop in even if they haven't called me—and, besides, I've found that RSVP'ing is a lost art. Good luck with that! Many people have told me they will come, but don't; others' arrival is a pleasant surprise. I'm also surprised at how many women tell me they've saved all my invitations and love knowing there's an opportunity for friendship in our neighborhood, even though they've never come! Neighbors will often call or stop by to thank me for inviting them, but they don't attend.

At my first Open House, my neighbor Natalie candidly said, "I call myself a Christian, but I don't really do anything *religious*. I own a Bible but I've never read it. For me to even open a Bible would be a big deal. I see people who have faith go through things like I've gone through—and even worse—but they seem to have a hope that I don't have. I know I can get it, but I don't know how. I don't even know where to start." Well, she started in my living room.

I had one last Open House invitation in my hand when I arrived at Juanita's home. To be honest, I was dead tired and didn't want to knock on another door. But Juanita had just moved in a few days before, and the timing was perfect to invite her over. As I explained the invitation, she threw her hands in the air and yelled, "Hallelujah!" She had been praying to meet her new neighbors, but I am the one who is blessed by this faithful woman of God living across the street.

## How to Meet Your Neighbors

If you aren't meeting your neighbors in the course of everyday life, you must create opportunities yourself. Here are other activities you might consider starting in your neighborhood, with the goal of making acquaintances who become friends:

**Walking Club:** Meet at your house at a designated time, or pick people up along a pre-established route. Plan a route with several laps so people of various fitness levels can jump off early or join a little later so you all finish together. Provide water and protein bars.

**Book Club:** Choose a popular title or topic with widespread interest such as a local author or historical event, literary classic, fiction, humor, hot topic or book that has been turned into a movie. Your book needn't be distinctly "Christian," but carefully research the content to make sure it's not offensive. Most books come with discussion questions, or you can make up your own.

**Gardening Club:** I have a black thumb, so I'd love one of my neighbors to start this! Trade seedlings, plant cuttings, divide perennials, and share your garden tools and tips. Organize a neighborhood beautification project or plant flowers at a local park. Spend an hour weeding each other's flower beds, or help at the home of a neighbor who can't care for theirs.

**Cooking Club:** Experiment with new recipes, techniques, or ingredients together. Invite a local chef to do a demonstration in

your home. Or organize a freezer meal co-op: one meeting is spent selecting freezable recipes, then each participant makes enough of one recipe to give each member a serving. Meet again in several weeks to trade entrees and pick new recipes. Cook a little extra for new moms or grieving families, all while saving money and time in the kitchen.

**Scrapbooking or Card-Making Club:** Share your scrapbooking tools and use up extra supplies—and get inspiration from other creative neighbors—at a scrapbooking or card-making party. Plan one project to do together or let everyone work on their own albums, digital projects, gifts, or greeting cards. Provide plenty of tables, counter space or lap boards, play soft music, and let the creative juices flow!

**Neighborhood Watch:** Become involved in an existing neighborhood watch program in your area and attend all the meetings. If there isn't one, contact your local sheriff or police department to learn about starting one yourself. These programs go well beyond public safety as neighbors collaborate on community concerns and look out for each other.

**Block Party:** Organize a block party and enlist several other neighbors to help out. Pass out a flyer two or three weeks in advance. Ask if anyone has folding tables and make sure people bring chairs and their own paper/plastic dishware. Provide a grill and have people bring their own meat and a dish to share (assign side dishes or desserts based on even or odd house numbers). Don't forget ice and drinks and a few fun games like a bean bag toss. Create your own ice breaker with a customized Block Party Bingo game: Find neighbors to fill in the squares with questions like, "Lived here less than a year," or, "Has a dog," or "Does not live on my street." Ask local businesses to donate door prizes. Many cities have a budget for block parties, so contact your local mayor's office or other appropriate local agency to find out if any financial support is available.

**Pizza Pot Luck:** Invite your neighbors to bring their favorite pizza—restaurant, homemade, or store-bought—to share. Most pizza shops are happy to donate coupons to pass out at your event! Divvy up responsibility to provide drinks and paper products, and ask for a few salads or desserts, too. Host the party at your home, in the driveway, or invite the whole block.

**Game Night:** Organize a family game night with board games or video games for all ages. Provide a few prizes from a dollar store. This is a great way to get together in the winter months when we don't run into our neighbors outside as often.

**Holidays:** Decorate cookies and read the Christmas story, or host an Easter egg hunt and share the Easter story. Organize a 4th of July parade around the block or a Memorial Day picnic. Hold a bike decorating contest for kids or have a front-porch decorating contest to make your entire neighborhood festive.

**Community Yard Sale:** Invite your entire neighborhood to have yard sales on the same day. Place free ads on Craigslist or pool a few dollars from participants for a paid ad. Make or purchase signs that say “Community Yard Sale This Saturday” that can be reused year after year. Check with local agencies for any restrictions on yard sales in your area. Make sure to always visit yard sales in your neighborhood so you can meet your neighbors!

## What's an Introvert to Do?

And yes, in case you're wondering, I am an extrovert. Meeting new people and hearing their stories is energizing for me. I like to make things happen, and sometimes I act hastily. What's an introvert to do? Many people prefer doing things alone or with a few close friends they feel comfortable with. They're deep thinkers, and sometimes they are slow to act.<sup>3</sup>

There's no exception clause to the “love your neighbor” command, so we know God designed each personality type to obey in

their own unique and wonderful way. The thoughtful, introspective, sensitive, and imaginative introverts among us—as well as our introverted neighbors!—will greatly appreciate these intimate approaches to neighboring:

**Do a favor:** Call a neighbor the next time you’re going to the grocery store, post office, hardware store, or mall and offer to pick up any items they might need. Better yet, invite them to come along. Doing an activity together provides just the right amount of interaction and distraction while you get to know each other.

**Make a call:** a simple telephone call can make a big difference. Nine out of ten older people reported that a chat on the phone helps them overcome loneliness . . . but one in four have no one to talk to.<sup>4</sup>

**Make a special delivery:** On a rainy day, deliver your neighbor’s newspaper or mail to her door with a plate of cookies—or simply deliver a card that says, “Stay warm and dry!” Wrap your special treat on a dish you don’t mind giving away, but that could be returned to you if your neighbor wants to continue the conversation.

**Ask for advice:** Ask your neighbor how she grows such beautiful flowers, who installed her new roof, or who she recommends for babysitting. She’ll get a compliment; you’ll get some great advice.

**Ask for help:** Ask if you can borrow an ingredient or a tool, or ask for a helping hand with a household task. Dependence is a hallmark of community, not an admission of weakness.

**Go on a date:** Invite your neighbor to breakfast at a new restaurant, share a buy-one-get-one-free lunch special, or take in a new movie together. The novelty of a new place or the thrill of a shared bargain are great ways to bond. Visit a museum or go to a concert, or take in a baseball game. Dates with a defined beginning and end time set expectations and ease anxieties.

**Create a neighborhood newsletter:** Start a newsletter just for your neighborhood, using written communication instead of verbal to form connections. Include local events, a recipe of the

month, and opportunities for neighbors to gather. Interview a neighbor and share their personal story, and ask people to submit articles.

There's no exception clause to the "love your neighbor" command, so we know God designed each personality type to obey in their own unique and wonderful way.

**Get physical:** Invite a neighbor or two to take a walk or go on a bike ride, hiking, skiing, bowling, skating, or horseback riding. The physical activity gives breathing space and provides natural breaks in the conversation.

Now that you've decided to engage with your neighbors around your home, and you've determined what you're going to do, there are just a few more details to pin down.

## Who to Invite? How Many?

You may drive down the same streets for years and not really know exactly how many people God has carefully placed in your neighborhood. Determine the number of potential new friends living around you so you can begin praying for them now!

- For a simple, accurate, and low-tech solution, just walk around and count the houses! Sketch a map and fill in names as you meet people.
- Use Google, Bing, MapQuest, or Yahoo Maps to zoom in on your neighborhood. If the satellite or street level view is

available for your area, you can count each home in amazing detail. Check them all, because satellite images taken during different seasons reveal different details.

- Your county auditor or clerk of courts maintains detailed online property records. Search for your address at their website, then count the number of nearby homes.

I invited 89 neighbors to my first Open House, and 18 came. Typically, about one in five of your neighbors will respond to your invitation. This number may be higher if you extend a personal invitation to neighbors you already know, or lower if you leave invitations on the doorsteps of people you've never met.

## When to Do It?

Pay attention to the traffic patterns in your neighborhood. When do your neighbors take a walk? How long do their newspapers sit at the end of the driveway before they retrieve them? When are the lights on? When do the school buses run? When do the lawn mowers hum? Choose a time of day for your activity that matches the rhythm of your neighbors. Any time or day you choose will include some neighbors and exclude others—there's no way to find a perfect time for everyone.

When you settle on the time of day, you'll need to decide how long you'll meet. Meeting for 90 minutes allows enough time to get to know each other without taking up their entire day, or yours. Much longer than that puts a strain on everyone's calendar.

## How to Tell Them?

Your invitation can be scribbled on the back of an envelope or custom printed and elaborately embellished—whatever works for you. Ask a creative kid to type something up on a computer, or ask for help at the print counter of your local office supply store. Here are some ways to get the word out in your neighborhood:

- Deliver invitations door to door.
- Post an invitation at the community center or pool after checking any homeowner’s association rules or restrictions.
- Ask the office at your apartment complex if they will make invitations available.
- Write an article for your neighborhood newsletter or website (even if you have to create these yourself!).
- Post information on your neighborhood Facebook or NextDoor group.
- Publish the event on Craigslist or Meetup.

A personal invitation delivered face-to-face is the most time-consuming yet most effective way to invite your neighbors into your life—you can stuff mailboxes, but the result won’t be the same. Don’t depend on depersonalized mass communication or electronic media to deliver a personal message.

Now, you’re ready to follow Jesus’ advice: “Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find” (Matthew 22:9).

## **Not in My Backyard**

Your neighborhood might be more into Bunco than Bible study. They might be gung ho about a book club . . . so long as it’s not the Good Book. That’s OK! So were Jesus’ neighbors. Be intentional about creating relationships around your home and outside your religious circles. Find a way that feels natural to you. I guarantee opportunities for spiritual conversations will follow! It’s perfectly okay to meet in coffee shops or community pools—the point is to move deliberately and consistently into real relationships with people who live around us.

Jesus didn't love us from afar. He didn't just pray for people as He walked past their homes; He went in and ate with them. He didn't just wish He could meet His neighbors; He stepped down from heaven and lived with us.

Women will come if—*egad!*—you invite them in. Set the table for them. Open the door to your home.

They're dying to see what it looks like inside, anyway!

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## Next Best Steps

1. In your opinion, how is a home setting different than a church setting? Have you ever done a Bible study in a home? How was it different than the same kind of activity in a church? What are some pros and cons of each setting?
2. Do you know where your neighbors go to church? Make a list of the churches represented by your neighbors. What would happen on your street and in your community if these churches were unified and cooperating for the Kingdom?
3. Which group activities sound appealing to you? Brainstorm ideas on what you might do with your neighbors.
4. Which personal interactions sound best to you? Determine to do at least one of these activities in the next ten days. Record that date here: \_\_\_\_\_. Describe what happened.

5. Pray specifically for each home in your neighborhood. Print or draw a map of your neighborhood and mark each house as you pray. Sleuth for clues about the family who lives there so you can pray for their needs. Do this together with your family or enlist another neighbor to pray with you.



## Walk It Out Challenge #3

**Your Walk** Draw a simple map of the eight homes closest to yours—those next door, across the street, and behind your house. If you live in an apartment, include the units above, below, and beside you. Use tools like Google Maps or your local county auditor's website to help identify property lines and house numbers. Once your map is drawn, fill in as much as you know: names, pets, careers, or hobbies. This piece of paper is a tool to help you visualize your mission field and move from a global perspective of "neighbor" to a local one.

**God's Way** When Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, He defined our neighbor as anyone we encounter in our daily lives. Mapping your neighborhood helps you zoom in on Christ's second greatest command. If you don't know who lives in these homes—what they do during the day or what keeps them up at night—you won't know if they know Jesus. By identifying them by name and location, you are preparing your heart to love them with the same intentionality God shows us.

No Weirdness! You don't need to be a professional cartographer, and your map doesn't have to be to scale. It can be a rough sketch on a napkin or a piece of graph paper. This isn't for public display; it's a private tool for your own prayer and outreach. If someone sees you looking at your phone or a notepad while you walk, they'll just assume you're checking a list or a map—which is exactly what you're doing!


The Words *“Lord, thank You for placing me in this specific spot. As I look at these homes, help me to see the people behind the doors. Open doors for conversation and show me how to love my actual neighbors today. In Jesus's name, Amen.”*



Ready for more? Find a full library of interactive challenges, community links, and free downloadable tools by scanning this QR code or visit [www.amylively.com/challenge](http://www.amylively.com/challenge).

# Notes

- 1 Jed Kolko, “Love Thy Neighbor?” Trulia, October 24, 2013, [www.trulia.com/trends/2013/10/love-thy-neighbor](http://www.trulia.com/trends/2013/10/love-thy-neighbor).
- 2 Dr. Danny Avula, “Dependence Isn’t a Dirty Word,” TEDxRVA Talk, May 9, 2014, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cDeMjvrFjU&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cDeMjvrFjU&feature=youtu.be).
- 3 Charles R. Martin, “Extraversion or Introversion,” The Myers and Briggs Foundation, [www.myersbriggs.org/my-mbti-personality-type/mbti-basics/extraversion-or-introversion.asp](http://www.myersbriggs.org/my-mbti-personality-type/mbti-basics/extraversion-or-introversion.asp). Adapted from Charles R. Martin, *Looking at Type* (Gainesville, FL: Center for Applications of Psychological Type, 1997).
- 4 Hilarie Stelfox, “Talking Point: The rise of loneliness in 21st century Britain,” *The Huddersfield Daily Examiner*, November 30, 2013, [www.examiner.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/talking-point-rise-loneliness-21st-6355301](http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/talking-point-rise-loneliness-21st-6355301).



**“I want to love my neighbor,  
but I don't know how.”**

Most of us feel guilty about Christ's command to love our neighbor, but let's be honest—we don't even *know* most of the people living around us.

How can we love people we don't even know? Besides, doesn't it count as “loving our neighbor” when we send money to missionaries and put out yard signs for our church? Are we supposed to just knock on our neighbor's door and tell them about Jesus?

***“They'll think I'm weird.”***

***How to Love Your Neighbor Without Being Weird*** helps you overcome fears about getting to know your neighbors and sharing your faith. You'll learn simple, practical ways to get to know your neighbors using your God-given personality. As you venture out of the comfort of your living room and into the lives of your neighbors, you'll form authentic friendships, create a safer community, and find fulfillment in obeying Christ's #2 command.

***This revised 10th Anniversary Edition features updated neighborhood statistics and a NEW 10-step "Walk It Out" Challenge with practical, adaptable ways to help move from your front door to theirs.***



Amy Lively (MA, Asbury Theological Seminary) teaches God's Word as a practical manual for loving others. A business owner and small group leader, she brings deep theological insight to real-world neighbor-ing.



**Learn more at [www.amylively.com](http://www.amylively.com).**