



Lent 2015 Guide

Wednesday 18th February (day 1)

A light on Your Street

Matthew 5:13-16

Lord, let my light shine before my neighbours, so that they will see my life and ask why I act differently to those around me. Let me be known as a person who is honest, a person who will listen, a person whose lips do not speak badly of others and someone my neighbours can turn to for help. Let me not be afraid to tell my neighbours, I am a Christian. Help me to follow your teachings in my daily life. Amen

Thursday 19th February (day 2)

Desperation and a Hunger for God

Matthew 5:3-4

Lord, help all those who are feeling desperate, hopeless and in some cases suicidal. Bring people alongside them who will genuinely help and Christians who will share Your love and compassion. We pray that all people on our street will have a growing desire to get to know You and develop a relationship with You, so that they come to You first when they are in need of help. Amen

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Week 1: Neighbour Challenge:

Send a card to a neighbour in one or more of the following situations:

- A Sympathy card to a neighbour who has just suffered bereavement
- A welcome to their new home card
- A get well card if your neighbour has recently been unwell
- A birthday card if you are aware of your neighbours birthday
- A retirement card if they have just retired.
- A congratulations on the birth of a new baby



Deliver the card by hand and introduce yourself to your neighbour if you don't already know them. Consider offering to provide a meal in the case of sickness, bereavement, or a new baby or a small gift.

Friday 20th February (day 3)

Transform our Street

Matthew 5:5-9

Lord, fill our street with people who hunger and thirst to do what is right, with those who are merciful; those who seek to create peace in the midst of tension, and those whose hearts are pure. Let our street be transformed as more of our neighbours come to know You and in turn let our street become a blessing to our local area. Amen

Saturday 21st February (day 4)

Faith in the Work Place

Matthew 5:10-12

Father, help all Christians living on our street, who feel that their lives are made more difficult at work or among friends, because of their belief in You. Give them the strength to remain confident in expressing their faith. Help all our neighbours who are facing difficulties for decisions that were the right ones, but which may have caused offence or criticism from others. Amen

Monday 23rd February (day 5)

Domestic Violence & Slavery

Matthew 5:21-22

Lord, help all of our neighbours to control their tempers and be careful not to say negative words towards others. Bring peace in homes where there is violence and rescue for those who live in fear, intimidation or in situations of modern day slavery. Open our eyes to those in need of a kind word and a listening ear on our street. Amen



Tuesday 24th February (day 6)

Reconciliation

Matthew 5:23-26

Lord, help all of our neighbours where there is an on going dispute or estrangement among their families. In circumstances where it is safe to do so, bring reconciliation and peace to these families. For families where they want reconciliation, but the other person does not, bring healing and peace to them. Help me not to get into any disputes with my neighbours and to resolve things quickly when issues may arise now and in the future. Amen

Wednesday 25th February (day 7)

Pornography

Matthew 5:27-29

Father, protect all teenage and younger children from accidentally or intentionally accessing pornography online. Help adults who use pornography to realise the damage that this does, not just to themselves, but to more vulnerable members of society. Convict people watching porn, who see nothing wrong with it, about how wrong it is to watch. Help both male and female teenagers not feel pressurised into sexual activity influenced by online pornography. Amen

Thursday 26th February (day 8)

Divorce & Marriage

Matthew 5:31-32

Father, bring healing to all our neighbours who have watched parents or Grandparents get divorced, or who have got divorced themselves. For those who are single and looking for someone to marry in the future, bring patience and the right person at the right time. For those who are married, protect them from temptation that might lead to an “affair.” For those considering marriage, help them to prepare well for marriage and give them the strength to keep the promises they make in the future. Amen

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Week 2: Neighbour challenge

Prayer Walk your street, praying a blessing over every house and try to strike up a conversation with a neighbour you don't already know well.

Offer to take the bins out (if you are able) for an elderly or disabled neighbour on a regular basis. And/or

Offer to go shopping for a neighbour

Friday 27th February (day 9)

Keeping Your Promises & Telling the Truth

Matthew 5:33-37

Lord help me to be a neighbour known for speaking the truth and keeping my promises. Help me not to promise to do things I cannot do. Let me be known as someone who always has an encouraging word for my neighbours, and someone who people feel is trustworthy. Let honesty be found in all the houses on our street and let there be healing from any negative words spoken, or broken promises. Amen

Saturday 28th February (day 10)

Staying on Good Terms with Your Neighbour

Matthew 5:38-42

Lord, help me to get on with all my neighbours, especially those where there have been past disagreements and irritations. If a neighbour treats me badly, help me not to retaliate. Help me to be generous towards my neighbours, and present opportunities for me to respond to the needs of my neighbours. Amen

Monday 2nd March (day 11)

Love Your Neighbour

Matthew 5:43-48

Lord, I pray for those who have hurt me. Open my heart to feel love to everyone living on my street. Forgive me when I have passed judgement on the lives that my neighbours lead, or I have dismissed people living on my street because they are not like me or have displayed difficult behaviour. Help me to be friendly to all my neighbours. Amen

Tuesday 3rd March (day 12)

Giving to the needy

Matthew 6:1-4

Lord, increase the love in my heart for those around me and a desire to help, those living on my street. Help me to see people the way you see them. Highlight to me needs that my neighbours have and practical ways I can help them without attracting too much attention to myself. Help me to use what is "in my hands" be that Spiritual gifts that you have given me, the material possessions I have; for the benefit of my neighbours. Amen

Wednesday 4th March (day 13)

Praying the Lord's Prayer over your street

Matthew 6:5-14

Our Father in heaven, may your name be honoured on my street. May your Kingdom come, on my street, may what you want to happen be done, on my street, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give all my neighbours what they need to eat and provision for housing costs and bills. Forgive all my neighbours, their sins and help them to forgive others. Keep all our neighbours from sinning when temptation comes and save all our neighbours from the devil. Amen

Thursday 5th March (day 14)

Forgiveness

Matthew 6:14-15

Lord, help all my neighbours struggling to forgive friends, families, colleagues at work, to forgive those who have hurt them, even those who have inflicted terrible pain. Bring healing to those whose relationships are damaged whether it is a parent child relationship, between a husband and a wife, a boyfriend or girlfriend, siblings, friends or neighbours.

Week Three Neighbour Challenge

Invite a neighbour either to your own house for some food or out to a local coffee shop or restaurant, to get to know them better.

(We recommend that you do this with at least one other person and this activity is not suitable for an under 18)

If you know your neighbours well, also start inviting them to a “Hi-Tea” (Hello with a cuppa and lots of cakes) as part of a celebration of Easter in a few weeks time.

Friday 6th March (day15)

Matthew 6:19-24

Materialism

Father help all of our neighbours to know that life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. Help those struggling financially to have what they need and those who have more than they need to share with the less fortunate. We especially pray for neighbours who struggle with “hoarding.” Help them to get the help that they need. We pray that all our neighbours learn what it means to gather riches in heaven. Amen

Saturday 7th March (day 16)

Matthew 6:25-34

Worry

Lord, bring peace to all of our neighbours who are worrying about how they will be able to afford to pay their housing costs, bills, especially those who are unemployed or in debt. Help them not to fall into a state of anxiety and worry. Bring provision of food, clothes and finance to those who are most vulnerable in our street. Help them to know that they can turn to you as their Father in heaven. Amen

Monday 9th March (day 17)

Matthew 7:1-6

Judging your neighbour

Lord help me not to judge my neighbours, especially as I have never walked in their shoes or have experienced what they have gone through or are going through. Help me to see my neighbours through fresh eyes and help me to be more understanding and sympathetic to other people's life experiences and challenges. Amen

Tuesday 10th March (day 18)

A Praying Street

Matthew 7:7-12

Lord, we pray that all our neighbours will have a desire to pray, that they will ask and it will be given to you, they will search and they will find, knock and the door will be opened to them. Bring opportunities to pray with other Christian on my street and for our street to be regularly covered in Christian prayer. Amen

Wednesday 11th March (day 19)

Putting Jesus' teachings into action

Matthew 7:24-29

Lord, we pray for everyone who has heard the teachings of Jesus, will put them into practice in their daily lives. Bring gentle reminders to people about Your teachings through bus advertisements, books, magazine, the TV and through meeting other Christians. Let there be an excitement about your teachings and I pray I will see them transform our street. Amen

Thursday 12th March (day 20)

Sickness among our neighbours

Matthew 9:35-38

Lord , we pray for healing for every disease and sickness among our neighbours. Give us the compassion of Jesus when dealing with other people. Help us to be wise about how we might help those with health difficulties and the choice of words that we use. Lord give me opportunities to find out who is struggling with ill health on my street so that I may pray for them. Amen

Week Four: Neighbour Challenge

Consider getting together with some friends and purchasing some Easter Eggs to give out to your neighbours, with an invitation to a local church service. For more information, visit www.Sharethemiracle.org

Friday 13th March (day 21)

The Discouraged

Lord, we pray for all our neighbours who are tired and carrying heavy burdens of responsibility. Help Christians live lives that show that serving You is easy and that there is freedom and rest to be found when in relationship with You. Let all my neighbours come to know you! Amen

Saturday 14th March (day 22)

Good Seed on Your Street

Matthew 13:1-23

Lord, we pray that as our neighbours hear about Jesus and all His teachings, that they understand the message. We pray that the devil will not steal what has been planted in their hearts, that new believers will mature in their faith so that when suffering or trouble comes, they will not fall away. We pray that the worries of life and false promises of wealth do not distract them and that seed will fall on good soil, so our neighbours will understand. Let their lives will be transformed and many others see their lives transformed as a result. Amen

Monday 16th March (day 23)

Living a life of Sacrifice

Matthew 17:24-27

Lord, we pray that all our neighbours professing to be a Christian, will live lives that are centred around the needs of others, rather than themselves. Help Christians to make difficult choices that will benefit the Kingdom of God, but which might not be easy decisions to make in terms of the way they live their lives. Help people to have lives of living sacrifice. Amen

Tuesday 17th March (day 24)

Miraculous Provision

Matthew 17:24-27

We pray for families who have just lost their jobs, benefits or have fallen on hard times. Help them to meet all their bills and have enough food, heating and money for essential bills in the coming weeks and months. Let neighbours in this situation experience miraculous provision, with strangers donating what they need at the right time. Help them to get the help that they need from social services, job centres and health care providers. Lord let them always be shown compassion and respect. Amen

Wednesday 18th March (day 25)

Children and their protection

Matthew 18:1-6

Father, protect all of the children on my street, from all forms of abuse and bullying both at home and in school. Surround children with people who love them and who always have their best interests at heart. Help local churches to know how to make children feel welcome in church, when children may visit a church for special occasions or weekly services. Amen

Thursday 19th March (day 26)

Children and Church

Matthew 18:10-14

Lord, we pray that children will have opportunities in schools, at home, in the community or through churches to hear your life transforming words. Raise up positive role Christian role models for all children. Inspire the next generation with a passion to see their local community transformed, use children as agents of change. Amen

Week Five: Neighbour Challenge

Consider giving out the Father's Love Letter to some of your neighbours. Or a Gospel. You can order these from www.neighbourhoodprayer.net

If you have school age children or Grandchildren, could you investigate whether your local school might consider setting up prayer spaces
www.prayerspacesinschools.com

Friday 20th March (day 27)

Needing Forgiveness

Matthew 18: 21-35

Help all of my neighbours in positions of responsibility such as health care, business, politics. Where mistakes have been made and they are struggling to live with the consequences, bring them peace. Let this Lent time be one where they are presented with the love and forgiveness of God. Help them readily accept this forgiveness and be able to move forward in their lives with freedom from guilt. Teach them also to forgive others. Amen

Saturday 21st March (day 28)

Marriage and Divorce

Matthew 19:1-12

Lord we pray for all people whose marriages are in trouble, for whatever reason. Bring them through this difficult time and bring reconciliation and peace to their home. Lord for couples on the verge of filing for divorce, bring healing and support from friends and family. For those who are recovering from the pain of a divorce, help them to feel loved and accepted within the church. Amen

Monday 23rd March (day 29)

Schools

Matthew 19:13-15

Lord we pray for all families with children of school age. Help all children to reach their full potential and for parents to have confidence in their local school. Allow opportunities for Christian ministries to present the Christian message in local schools. Let many children find new faith in our schools. Amen

Tuesday 24th March (day 30)

Generosity

Matthew 19: 16-30

Lord, help our street to become one where we are aware of the needs of our neighbours and share our time and possessions with neighbours as they have need. Give me opportunities to help a neighbour practically in the coming weeks and with that, an opportunity to show genuine love. Amen

Wednesday 25th March (day 31)

Servanthood

Matthew 20:20-28

Lord, help me have an attitude of servant-hood in my street, willing to pray regularly for my neighbours and make time for the people who live here. Change my heart to one of a servant, willing to put my neighbours needs before my own. Above all give me a heart to love my neighbours more and a desire to show them love. Amen

Thursday 26th March (day 32)

Benefits, Taxes and Giving

Matthew 22:15-22

Lord, we pray that all the households who are on benefits with genuine need, will be in receipt of all the correct benefits and that these benefits meet their needs. Where there are shortfalls, help the local church provide services that help. We pray that all the correct taxes are being paid and that people are generous in their giving to churches and charities. Amen

Week Six : Neighbour Challenge

Invite some of your neighbours around for some food and Hot crossed buns in the approach to Easter or hand deliver some to your neighbours together with an Easter card.

Ask your neighbours if they would be interested in attending a “Big Lunch” www.thebiglunch.com in June and see if some of your neighbours would like to help organise it.

Friday 27th March (day 33)

The Lonely

Matthew 25:31-46

Help me to identify neighbours who are desperately lonely, who have few relatives or friends visiting them, and TV is their main source of company. Bring them new friends and social contacts and a sense of community. Help me to offer hospitality alongside others, to the lonely.

Saturday 28th March (day 34)

The Sick

Matthew 25:31-46

Lord, help our street to be one of the best places to find help in times of sickness, where neighbours visit each other when they sick and in hospital and provide support when people come home. We pray for all those who care for elderly or unwell relatives, for continuing compassion, for rest and a sense of Your presence on the difficult days. Amen

Monday 30th March (day 35)

Hospitality

Matthew 25:31-46

Lord, we pray that our street will have many events taking place throughout the year, run by different people on our street. We pray that these will be a sense of community at these gatherings where genuine friendships develop. Help me to contribute to a sense of community on my street. Amen

Tuesday 31st March (day 36)

Passion Story:

Praying through the crisis

Matthew 26:1-46

Lord, we pray for all of our neighbours who are going through a crisis. We pray that there will be Christians who will be aware of the problems and be prepared to pray for them. Bring healing where people feel let down by the church at times of need. Give Christians wisdom about how to help in difficult situations. Amen

Wednesday 1st April (day 37)

Betrayal

Matthew 26: 47-75

Lord, help all of my neighbours who are feeling rejected by friends and family and in some cases feel that they have been betrayed. Help them to overcome their feelings of hurt and help them to be careful in what they say in the “heat of the moment.” Bring people alongside to offer wise advice and protect people from harming themselves in desperation. Amen

Thursday 2nd April (day 38)

Dealing with False accusations

Matthew 27:1-40

Lord, help me to forgive those, who gossip about me or falsely accuse me of things that I have not done. Help me to speak to them calmly and with compassion and not in anger. Let this be the beginning of a time of restoration of relationships. Amen

Week Seven: Neighbour Challenge

Invite at least one neighbour to a local church service and if you know your neighbour reasonably well, think about whether to invite them to a future Alpha Course.

Friday 3rd April (day 39)

Good Friday

Matthew 27:40-66

Thank you for dying for me and allowing me to be forgiven for all the mistakes that I have made and all the mistakes I am going to make. Let me never take for granted Your sacrifice on the cross. Help me to know that I am forgiven and that I can always approach You in prayer. Help me to be bold in sharing about your sacrifice with my neighbours. Give me the right words to speak when neighbours ask me about You. Amen

Saturday 4th March (day 40)

Hope for the Dying

Matthew 28: 1-16

We pray for all those who are in the midst of a terminal illness. Help them to know that there is life after death, and to develop a strong relationship with You, Bring peace at times of worry, relief where there is pain and good relationship with all family and friends. Help all family members to experience the peace of the Holy Spirit and know Your presence for themselves. Amen