



## Our Neighborhood Parent Guide

“Love your neighbor as yourself,” Mark 12:31.

Small, practical steps on our part to reflect the love of Jesus to the people who are literally right next to us gives them the chance to meet Jesus and understand that he loves them, just as they are. And that Good News is the best news there is.

The more we engage with our neighbors, the more we will find that they are people just like us with passions and stories and gifts to share. But here’s the thing. It takes work, intentionality, and vulnerability. We have to go first. We have to initiate, ask names and remember them. Maybe we help mow an overgrown yard, bring a meal to the house we saw an ambulance at the other night, or stop to say hi to the coworker we usually pass by. We start small, and we trust God with where those small steps might lead.

The one thing we can’t do is stay silent and ignore our literal neighbors. As followers of Jesus, we are called to come alongside people, all people, and see them the way God sees them, so they can understand that God’s love is for them, too.

So, let’s think about our literal neighbors: the people right next to us, wherever we may be. The people who live next door to us, who wait behind us at the grocery store, or who sit in the cubicle beside us at work. Do we know their names? Their stories?

### Here are some other ways to pray:

- **This week, pray for your neighbors. Pray for opportunities to meet and get to know those people. Pray for boldness to initiate. Pray for wisdom to discern their needs. Then, learn their names. Ask “how are you?” and wait for the real answer. Listen. Follow up. Pray.**

### FAMILY DISCUSSION

Watch the “What Can I Do?” video on [flatironskids.com](http://flatironskids.com). (Under the Outreach Partners tab.) Discuss.

1. Who is your neighbor? **(the people who live by you, the people who you go to school with, the people who you see at the grocery store, etc.)**
2. What question did Miguel ask in the video? **(What can I do?)**
3. What could we do right here in our neighborhood to show God’s love?
4. God didn’t create us to live life alone. Why is it important to have family, friends and neighbors?