



## Who is My Our Neighbor?

A Litany of Outreach

(This litany can be adapted to your community and the agencies you can support. One suggestion is to use this litany for your planning meeting, before you choose the mission projects for the coming year.)

Our congregation is a part of our community. This community is our service area. Read the parable of "The Good Samaritan" in Luke 10:25-37, keeping the community located around (*name of your congregation*) in mind.

**Leader:** Who are our neighbors?

**Response:** Neighbors are people who are hurting or in need.

**Leader:** What does Jesus' parable tell us about loving our neighbors?

**Response:** It is more than professing love, it is acting in love.

**Leader:** There are women and children in our community who have been abused, who have had to leave their homes. As Christian women we can reach out to other women in need, using as our example "The Woman Who Feared the Lord" in Proverbs 31:20: *She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.*

**Response:** How can we love these neighbors?

**All:** We can support (*name of safe house*) in their efforts to protect and provide assistance to these women and children.

**Leader:** There are pregnant women who don't know if they can take care of their babies. Jesus is our example in his care for little children. *Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God"* (Luke 18:15-16).

**Response:** How can we love these neighbors?

**All:** We can support (*name of pregnancy care center*), because they encourage women to carry their babies instead of aborting them. They support these women through pregnancy and for several months after delivery.

**Leader:** There are people in the (*name of local jail or prison*) who need to know about the love and forgiveness given freely through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus reminds us of the importance of hearing and believing his word. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life"* (John 5:24).

**Response:** How can we love these neighbors?

**All:** We can contact the chaplain to learn what he/she needs in order to minister to the inmates.

**Leader:** There are lonely elderly people in our community. There are people in need of our time. Do we have time to share? *Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God* (Heb. 13:16).

**Response:** How can we love these neighbors?

**All:** We can visit (*name of local nursing home*) on a regular basis. We can ask the activity director about ways to meet their needs.

**Leader:** There are people in our community who cannot afford adequate housing. Not only can we build houses, but we can speak of the builder of all things. *For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God* (Heb. 3:4).

**Response:** How can we love these neighbors?

**All:** We can support (*the local Habit for Humanity*) in their efforts to provide housing for these people.

**Leader:** There are hungry people in our community. *"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink ... Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?' ... And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me'"* (Matt. 25:35, 37, 40).

**Response:** How can we love these neighbors?

**All:** We can collect and deliver food to (*name of local food bank*).

**Leader:** In our community, there are families caring for their ill loved ones. *"I was sick and you visited me ... 'And when did we see you sick ... and visit you?' And the King, will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me'"* (Matt. 25:36, 39, 40).

**Response:** How can we love these neighbors?

**All:** Through the (*name of the local hospice or hospital*), we can support families and their ill loved ones.

**Leader:** There are college students in our community living away from home, who need encouragement in their Christian faith. *Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint* (Is. 40:30-31).

**Response:** How can we love these neighbors?

**All:** Through sending care packages and notes to them, they will know we care for them.

**Leader:** There are blind people (or others with special needs) who have a need for fellowship and the Word of God. Jesus included in his ministry those with special needs. *And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them"* (Matt. 11:4-5).

**Response:** How can we love these neighbors?

**All:** (*Suggest a proposed activity to provide for people with special needs.*)

(Create responses for any other types of agencies that you can support in your community.)

**Prayer:** Dear Father in Heaven, through the teachings of your Son, Jesus Christ, in the parable of the Good Samaritan, You have asked us to love our neighbors with our actions. Please give us wisdom to select those community agencies and services that You would have (*name of local LWML society*) support. We pray for all the people in our community who are hurting and in need of spiritual, physical, and emotional healing. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

All Scripture is from the ESV.

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