FAQs

Why would I want to host a Neighborhood Gathering?

This is an incredible way to get to know your neighbors and feel better about where you live. All of our lives are improved greatly when we know each other and like where we live! The gatherings, and videos you watch, will also give you a chance to go deeper in conversation with your neighbors.

Didn’t we just go through The Art of Neighboring last fall?

Yes, we did a church-wide initiative where everyone began to meet, get to know, and pray for their neighbors. This was to internally discuss within the church the importance of knowing and loving our neighbors, and begin modeling it and practicing it. Now we are joining over 300 churches across Greater Austin to actively engage our neighbors and welcome them to join the conversation on the importance of being good neighbors.

Why would I want to invest in my neighborhood?

First of all, Jesus commands us to love our neighbors! Any investment of time or work with our neighbors is valuable to Jesus and gives us the encouragement that we are in His will. Second, all of our lives are improved when we invest in serving and helping others. We are designed by God to feel good about ourselves when we serve in His name, and those receiving benefits of others’ service will be greatly enriched.

I don’t want my neighbors to think I’m trying to trick them into coming to church with me or to hear more about my faith. How do I avoid that?

We encourage you to explain to your neighbors upfront that this is a four-week gathering to get to know one another, watch and discuss inspiring neighborhood videos, and build a better neighborhood. While based on Christian principles, the curriculum for Love Where You Live does not include any religious questions – it is focused on the importance and impact of good neighboring. Sharing about your personal faith may be appropriate as the conversation progresses, but don’t try to force it. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead you.

Is the church asking me to add another activity to my already busy schedule?

Not necessarily. Some people will have the ability to add this to their schedules if they drop something else, such as TV shows, entertainment, social media, and hobbies for a four-week period. We are also okay with Life Group members not meeting while holding their Neighborhood Gathering.

I already made some attempts to get to know my neighbors and it didn’t seem to work. What should I do?

Go ahead and invite them to your Neighborhood Gathering. This time they may be interested in getting together.

I didn’t go through The Art of Neighboring study last Fall. How can I get started?

Begin by getting to know your neighbors. Also, get a copy of the book The Art of Neighboring and read it. These are available at the church for free. Hosting this discussion might be a way to bring your neighbors together and get to know them better. Pray and ask God to make it clear what to do.

What materials will be used and how do I get them?

The church will provide Neighborhood Gathering discussion guides, weekly videos online, and discussion facilitation tips. The materials will be available online at https://christtogethergreateraustin.com/love-where-you-live/lwyl-groups/.

How do I get a DVD of the videos?

Contact Chris Brock at chris@tcacc.net and she can burn a DVD for you.
Who can help me if I need assistance with my Neighborhood Gathering or if I have questions?

You can get help at our LWYL booth in the church foyer. You can also contact Missions Pastor Keith Tooley at: keith@tcacc.net as he will be holding two LWYL training sessions slated for April 10 and 17 at 9:30 am.

How will my student participate?

Students will be encouraged to partner with their parents and participate as a family to love where they live. This is an incredible opportunity for families to grow closer as they serve together. Students can come alongside to pray, invite neighbors, help get the house prepared for guests, or babysit neighborhood kids so other parents can participate. Students are also encouraged to continue praying for and connecting with their peers.

What if we need childcare?

We encourage you to work with your neighbors to find a solution for childcare in your own neighborhoods during your Neighborhood Gatherings. Consider chipping in for one or two sitters who watch all the children, see if one of the neighbors’ children could babysit, or seek out personal sitter for the four-week period.

Can my Neighborhood Gathering meet at church?

This is an effort to help us be better neighbors. We encourage you to meet in your own neighborhoods rather than trying to invite people to the church facilities.

What if my Neighborhood Gathering wants to stay together after the four-week discussion?

This would be an incredible way to multiply small groups and move toward fulfilling our vision of having a vibrant small group within walking distance of every man, woman, and child in Austin. If you and your neighbors decide to create a permanent group from your gathering, the Life Groups Ministry will help you.

How can I best prepare my Life Group members for this if I’m a group Leader?

Encourage them to step out in faith and seek to form a Neighborhood Gathering with the neighbors they have already spent time getting to know. Inform them of the resources available and pray together in your group that God would use each of you to be the neighbors Jesus desires.