



# LYNC

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE

#FORAURORA

# WELCOME

## WE ARE SO EXCITED YOU ARE JOINING OUR 28-DAY LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE!

In today's world, many organizations are known for what they are against; we want to be known for what we are for: **We are #ForAurora!** This 28-day challenge is designed to encourage your spirit, deepen your faith, and mobilize your giftings as you discover new ways to serve your neighbors and community at large by putting your faith into action.

Our hope during this challenge is that your life and the lives of those around you will be transformed by this experience. Perhaps most importantly, we pray that being the hands and feet of Jesus for the next 28 days will stir up your spirit to live lives marked by service, generosity, community, and love towards those around you for the rest of your life.

### WHAT IS THE 28-DAY LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR CHALLENGE?

It's very simple: **PRAY**, **ACT** and **REFLECT** for 28 days!

#### PRAY

Spend 5-10 minutes each day praying for an opportunity to serve or bless someone in your life. This could be a family member, a friend, a classmate or co-worker, a stranger, or even someone you consider an enemy.

#### ACT

Do one loving act of kindness for someone in your life. It can be a large and extraordinary act of kindness, or a small and simple expression of love. No act of kindness is too small—let the Holy Spirit lead you.

#### REFLECT

Grab a journal and set some time aside each week (or each day!) to answer the reflection questions provided and see what God is doing in and through you during this experience.

We have broken down the challenge into 4 categories:

**WEEK 1 | YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**WEEK 2 | YOUR NEIGHBORS**

**WEEK 3 | YOUR CITY**

**WEEK 4 | YOUR PLACE (WORK, SCHOOL, ETC.)**

Each week includes a list of possible serving ideas to get you started. Feel free to use as many as you want, repeat a few multiple times, or come up with your own ideas by taking some time to pray for God to point out a person you can love or a need you can meet. This guide is just a template to get you started if you want it; the only requirement of the challenge is to do one act of kindness per day.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA SHOUT-OUTS**

Want to spread the love and inspire others through your journey? Tag us in your social stories and posts @foraurora. We're on a **MISSION** to make a **BIG IMPACT** in Aurora, and we can't do any of this without **YOU!!**

# WEEK 1

## LOVE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

*“DO NOT DESPISE THESE SMALL BEGINNINGS,  
FOR THE LORD REJOICES TO SEE THE WORK BEGIN.”*

*Zechariah 4:10 NLT*

There are so many people in need and causes to support that it can be overwhelming to figure out where to get involved. An easy place to start is with those who are closest to us like our family and friends. Start small this week by actively and intentionally performing one act of kindness each day that blesses a friend or family member in your life. Use the list of activities below or come up with your own! And don't forget—this is just a guide. God may nudge you to serve someone in need outside of your inner circle—don't pass up this opportunity if it comes; instead rise to the occasion.

### **RING AND RUN BLESSING**

Create a care package for a friend or family member. Place it on their porch and send them a text saying, “Check your porch!” Want to be anonymous? Ring and run! (Examples: 1. Soup, Frozen Pizza, Gatorade, a cute mug and a note for someone who's sick 2. Chick-fil-A and a loving note to a friend 3. A gift basket with a note, candle, and some of their favorite candy.)

### **HYPE 'EM UP**

Compile a list of at least 10 people. Speak a word of encouragement into the life of someone around you. Words are powerful—use your words to fill someone up today.

### **QUALITY TIME**

Spending intentional time with someone is one of the most loving things we can do. God has given you people to pour time and love into. Who might need your time and love most right now? Maybe it's a close friend, your children, your spouse, a parent, or someone else.

### **I WILL GIVE YOU REST**

Who do you know that needs a break? Maybe it's a close friend, a child, your parents, or a caregiver. Reach out to them and set up a time for you to give them a break.

## **RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS**

Pray for a family member or friend whom you may need to reconcile with, and if appropriate, ask God to show you one way you could extend kindness toward this person.

## **PRAYER WARRIOR**

Intercession is one of the most powerful ways we can come alongside people. Pick 3-5 people to text/call and ask if they need prayer for anything. Then spend 10 minutes (or more!) per person praying on their behalf.

## **SECRET KINDNESS**

Perform an act of kindness in secret and don't tell anyone.

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## **REFLECTION**

1. How did you see God show up in your life and in the lives of those you served through your obedience this week?

2. Is there something you did for someone else this week that you can incorporate into your faith and life on a daily/weekly basis? What is it?

# WEEK 2

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR(S)

*"FOR YOU WERE CALLED TO FREEDOM, BROTHERS. ONLY DO NOT USE YOUR FREEDOM AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLESH, BUT THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER. FOR THE WHOLE LAW IS FULFILLED IN ONE WORD: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'"*

*Galatians 5:13-14 ESV*

What would the world look like if we got to know our neighbor, cared for our neighbor, reconciled with our neighbor, and genuinely loved our neighbor? Would our street or block become a little more united? Would our neighborhoods be safer and more vibrant places for our children? Would our communities start to look a little bit more like the love of Jesus? We certainly believe so. This week, find one simple way to love your neighbor(s) each day.

### **BUILD A LONGER TABLE**

Do you view your home as a possession or a resource? Are you building a higher fence or a longer table? Jesus spent tons of time around dinner tables with people and so should we. Invite one of your neighbors into your home for dinner sometime this week. Consider picking a neighbor you don't know very well or one you have a hard time getting along with.

### **A HELPING HAND**

Is there a widow, a single parent, an elderly couple, or someone with a disability in your neighborhood that could use some help? Reach out to them and ask if they need help with any errands or chores/maintenance around their house, and then take care of it for them.

### **HEY, NEIGHBOR!**

We all have a neighbor we don't know. This is your sign to get to know them! Bake cookies, build a tiny care package, or just go say Hi! Not sure what to say? Here's a suggestion: "Hi! My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I live \_\_\_\_\_. I'm doing a 28-day Love My Neighbor Challenge with my church, and I realized I haven't had the opportunity to meet you yet..." Want a challenge? Meet 3-5 new neighbors.

## **PRAYER WALK**

Pick a time to walk around your neighborhood and pray for your neighbors/neighborhood. Invite someone to go with you and pray for blessings, families in need, aspects of your neighborhood you hope will change, etc.

## **ENCOURAGE THE HEART**

Pray about a verse or note of encouragement God would like you to write and where to leave it, then scatter as many around as you want. Use sidewalk chalk, post a sign on a mailbox or a park bench, or leave a note at someone's door.

## **EXTEND AN INVITATION**

Who do you know that might be lonely or struggling to find community? Invite them to church, into your friend group, or small group, etc.

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## **REFLECTION**

1. What was your favorite thing you did this week? Why did it bring you joy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Did you see any opportunity this week where it felt like God set up a meeting with someone?



# WEEK 3

## LOVE YOUR CITY

*"WHAT SHOULD WE DO THEN?" THE CROWD ASKED.  
JOHN ANSWERED, 'ANYONE WHO HAS TWO SHIRTS SHOULD  
SHARE WITH THE ONE WHO HAS NONE, AND ANYONE WHO  
HAS FOOD SHOULD DO THE SAME.'"*

Luke 3:10-11 NIV

This week is designed to stretch you beyond your comfort zone and help you find ways to serve people you may have never met before. Whether it's a public servant, someone on the street experiencing homelessness, or a random stranger having a tough day, each person you see is an opportunity to extend the love and grace of Jesus. Take this week to love the people in your city by allowing the Holy Spirit to stir up good works within you.

### HOMELESS CARE PACKS

Bless someone experiencing homelessness. Create a small care pack with a note of encouragement and basic essentials. (Ex: One-gallon Ziploc bag, a pair of large socks, toothbrush and toothpaste, small tissues, chapstick, bottle of water or sports drink, sunscreen or lotion, pack of crackers or cookies, a granola bar, and hand wipes). Include a card or a note of encouragement. (Ex: "Your situation does not determine your value. Jesus loves you and has good plans for you...")

### SPONTANEOUS GENEROSITY

When you're out and about, pray for an opportunity to bless someone unexpectedly. The next time you're at the grocery store, consider quietly purchasing someone else's groceries, buying gas for someone at the pump, or paying for someone's coffee/meal at the drive through.

### HERE'S YOUR SIGN

Let your words bring life to those who need it. Pray about a verse or note of encouragement God would like you to write and where to leave it, then scatter as many around as you want.



## **FOR THOSE WHO SACRIFICE**

Today, find a way to bless a police officer, firefighter, EMT or paramedic, 911 dispatcher, doctor, nurse, or anyone who shows up every day to keep us all safe and healthy. Pick up a few gift cards to some restaurants (Subway, Chick-fil-A, Tokyo Joe's, etc.) so when you have the opportunity to bless someone, you can! Feel free to include a thank-you note. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Please never approach a public safety worker while they are in the middle of a service call (traffic stop, active fire, medical emergency).

## **PRAYER WALK**

Pick a place within your community to go on a prayer walk. This could be a park, a community center, your neighborhood, your favorite hiking trail, or somewhere else.

Spend 20-30 minutes praying for the people you see on your walk.

## **CLEAN IT UP**

Pick up trash on a walk, parking lot, or on your street.

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## **REFLECTION**

1. What are other ways you can show love to your city?

2. Is there something you did for someone else this week you can incorporate into your faith and life on a daily/weekly basis? What is it?

# WEEK 4

## LOVE YOUR PLACE

*"IMITATE GOD, THEREFORE, IN EVERYTHING YOU DO,  
BECAUSE YOU ARE HIS DEAR CHILDREN. LIVE A LIFE FILLED  
WITH LOVE, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST."*

Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT

This week is all about loving the people in your place from complete strangers to close friends/family. These are your classmates and coworkers, your teammates and people you see at the gym, the barista who gives you your coffee and the cashier that checks you out at the grocery store. These are also people and areas of our lives Jesus called us to love.

### **I SEE YOU**

The world is quick to point out mistakes and slow to acknowledge people going above and beyond. Spend today encouraging people in your life who have faithfully and enthusiastically showed up each day to do their best.

### **BLESSED WITH A BREAK**

Who do you know that needs a break? Maybe it's a new or single parent, a coworker or classmate, or an acquaintance. Reach out to them and set up a time for you to give them a break. Watch their kids for the day, give them some movie tickets for a night out, take them out to dinner, or bring dinner to them. Be creative!

### **RETURN THE FAVOR**

Think of a time someone outside your inner circle made your day or positively impacted your life in some way. Maybe they acknowledged your effort, turned your mood around by being unexpectedly kind, or poured into you in a way you didn't know you needed. Return the favor today. Write a note or tell them face to face how what they did impacted you, and bless them with a word of encouragement, a nice note, or a small gift of appreciation.

## **STEWARD YOUR GIFTS**

We are all blessed with gifts, passions, and resources according to our calling. Today, use your gifts or passion to pour into someone. Do you like to teach/coach others? Find someone to mentor/pour into today. Are you a handyman or problem solver? Use your gifts and skills to meet someone’s needs. Are you super talented at something? Find someone who is a beginner and show them the ropes.

## **OLIVE BRANCH**

Today, challenge yourself to extend kindness to someone who might not deserve it. Remember, none of us deserves the gift Christ gave us, but He gave it freely anyway—we are called to extend the same kindness to those around us. You could send them a note, give them a genuine compliment, or buy them a coffee. Find a way to bless someone who you have a hard time with.

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## **REFLECTION**

1. Who are the people in your life who need more of God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Reflect on what it was like to participate in this experience (both this week and the entirety of the challenge).

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood, showing houses, streets, and trees. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red color. The text is centered at the bottom of the image.

WE ARE  
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