



# Neighborhood *Evangelist Tool*

**Pew Research Center did a study in June 2010 and their findings were rather sobering:**

**29% of Americans know only a few of their neighbors and 28% know none of their neighbors by name.**

Do you know your neighbor? It's hard to live out the mission of your church if you are not connected with the people that God has put right next door. Building relational equity with those closest to you is the key to accomplishing any great ministry endeavor.

As the leaders of the church, if you are not living the Mission and consistently reinforcing what living on mission looks like, you can be certain that the average congregant is not going to be living on mission. Use this Neighborhood Evangelist tool to first awaken your staff or key leaders to the opportunity to live on mission right around them, and then to create a duplicatable process that the average church member might live out.

## **PERSONAL ASSESSMENT**

In your next staff or leadership meeting, draw the following diagram on a dry erase board or flip-chart pad. Also, provide everyone a copy of this tool, to follow along and score themselves.



\*Note, encourage everyone to adapt the illustration to their particular street situation in which the five open spaces represent their five closest homes or apartments.



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Where the star represents each leader’s household, and the other five spaces represent the neighbors to either side\*, and the three across the street, complete the following exercise together by walking through each round together. Do not progress to the next round until everyone has tallied their current round score.

Round	Score
Write the first name of each adult in the household. Score one point for EACH name you know. Place your total for this round to the right.	
Write the occupation of the PRIMARY bread-winner of each household. Score five points for EACH occupation you know. Place your total for this round to the right.	
Place an X on each household in which you have been a guest in their home or they have been a guest in yours in the last six months. Score 10 points for EACH X. Circle the X if you shared a meal during this visit and add an additional 10 points for EACH circle. Place your total for this round to the right.	
Place a † on each household in which you have had a spiritual conversation, shared your faith, or acknowledged praying for anyone in the household in the last six months. Score 50 points for each †. Place your total for this round to the right.	
Add up your total score for each round and place the total for the exercise to the right.	

One last round for the exercise is to do an honest gut-check assessment. Each leader who is more concerned about how high their score is, in relationship to everyone else’s, as opposed to being concerned about how low their score is, in relationship to living on mission, should lose all of his or her points.

**Discuss this exercise with the team:**

1. What did this exercise reveal about our personal effectiveness in living on mission as leaders?
2. How did you feel as each round progressed?
3. What is one next step for you to take as a result of this exercise?
4. How can you repeat this exercise with the leaders you lead in the church?



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## TEAM ENGAGEMENT

Create a plan with your team to empower your congregation to live on mission in their neighborhoods using this Neighborhood Evangelist Tool.

Start with your leadership, walk through the simple, five step process below over the next six months, then prayerfully consider how this tool might help you become a congregation that lives Jesus' command in Matthew 22 to love your neighbors.



**1. Join or discover your neighborhood.** Visit the [Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com) website and find your neighborhood. If you're the first person to discover your neighborhood through Nextdoor.com, you will become the lead Neighbor and be given the opportunity to draw the quadrants or map of your neighborhood. If a Nextdoor.com neighborhood already exists then add a photo, fill out your bio, and introduce yourself.

You can demo how Nextdoor.com works [here](#):

**2. Invite neighbors to join.** Nextdoor.com allows you to send up to 30 free customized postcards to your neighbors inviting them to join your network. You simply click on a property from the map and then send them a customized postcard inviting them to join. Once you click send, USPS will send it to your neighbor at no charge.

*Pastor, imagine 30 of your leaders doing this same thing, the exponential impact of engaged leaders across the congregation is almost unfathomable.*

You can demo how to invite others by sending postcards [here](#):



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- 3. Create a “My Neighbors” list.** As you meet your new neighbors online, keep their names in front of you every day. You could create your “My Neighbors” list on a simple, 3x5 card and tape it to your bathroom mirror. As you walk or drive through your neighborhood, seek “offline” opportunities to stop and talk to your list. Pray daily for those on your “My Neighbors” list and for God to allow you to cross paths with this person. *click send, USPS will send it to your neighbor at no charge.*
- 4. Start with dinner.** Invite some of the neighbors you are praying for to your home for an informal dinner and get to know them and their families. Use this as a time to strengthen relationships in your community and as an invitational opportunity to church, as appropriate.
- 5. Look at the next most applicable community event or holiday and schedule a block party with a larger group of neighbors.** Continue to seek and pray for opportunities to engage in meaningful, spiritual conversations with your neighbors and invite them to your church if they do not have a church home.

Many churches have used their articulated Mission Measures, or as Will Mancini describes in Chapter 15 of *Church Unique*, the missional Marks of a disciple, to consistently reinforce each member maintaining an evangelistic mindset toward their neighbors. It is as important to develop language that describes the success of your mission as it is to develop your mission. Missional Marks are critical to creating an evangelistic culture and casting vision for engagement through tools like Nextdoor.com.

Below are a few examples of evangelistic-themed Mission Measures from some Auxano clients:  
Asking **“Who is far from God but close to me?”**

- Modeling “Invites Others to Christ”
- Asking “Am I sharing my story?”
- Modeling “Helps others know God”
- Asking “Who sees His light in me?”

Use this neighborhood evangelist tool to start a conversation with your team today on how to activate your church to do more than hear the mission on Sunday, but to live it every day of the week.

Discover how to articulate a set of Mission Measures for disciple-making success in your church by starting a conversation with the Auxano team. Visit [Auxano.com](http://Auxano.com) or call **1-800-894-0991** to learn more.