


Grace Tables





Living to Make Jesus Visible in our Neighborhoods


Pursue hospitality. Romans 12:13 (CSB)


Getting Your Grace Table Started

 Sit at it! This seems simple, but hospitality is supposed to be simple. Learn the rhythms of your neighborhood. Have coffee. Leave your phone inside. Wave and smile.

 Host a neighborhood block party! Party ideas are provided on the reverse, but keep it simple. Drop flyers in all the mailboxes on your street introducing your family and inviting people to come. Have meet ups once a month or twice a year—do what you can.

 Have a lemonade stand! Have kids? Get them involved by creating a lemonade stand. Join your kids as they sell cookies and glasses of lemonade (or cocoa in the winter). Support a local charity with the proceeds and let your neighbors know.

 Start a contact list. As neighbors come, have them write their name, house number, and email or cell number. That way, you can spontaneously host events and include your neighbors in the fun.










 Make it mobile. We're all busy. You don't have to have a physical table to pursue hospitality. Parents of young athletes, pack snacks or drinks for families seated near you at a practice or the game. Apartment or retirement community dwellers, take a deck of cards and a cooler to the common area.

Whatever you do, keep it simple. Biblical hospitality meant loving strangers.

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Gathering Ideas

-  **Back to school**—have everyone bring their vacation stories to swap over lemonade and pizza and pass out freshly sharpened pencils;
-  **Advent Awareness**—set an advent wreath on the table with a card for what each candle represents, play festive music, and pass out cocoa;
-  **Pajamas on the Run**—invite neighbors with young kids over for a drink while the kids run and play in p.j.s before bedtime;
-  **Candy Swap**—after Halloween, invite everyone over to swap their candy haul for their favorite pieces (or to ship some to soldiers);
-  **Easter Eggs**—Decorate eggs and have everyone bring baskets to take their work of art home;
-  **Food Drive**—select a local charity and gather nonperishable food to restock a food pantry;
-  **Cinco de Mayo**—ask folks to stop by for beer and queso on May 5th;
-  **Camp Out**—roast marshmallows over a fire pit and hand out S'mores;
-  **Movie night**—hang a sheet against your house and show a movie and offer popcorn.

The ideas are limitless. Just take the first step.