

August 25, 2020

In the New Testament, Jesus gives us the **two** most important commandments: “**Love** the Lord, your God...Love your **neighbor** as yourself.”

In **normal times** this was easier, but with the **pandemic** and **stay at home** order, how do we do this?



**Here are 3 practical ways to love our neighbors when we can't physically be with them:**

### 1. PRAY

Jesus constantly prioritized prayer in his life on earth. Even in the midst of his ongoing ministry, Jesus never neglected **solitary time** in prayer with his Father. This is the **keyway** we can love our neighbor: **pray for them** and spend time **asking God to meet their needs**.

### 2. REACH OUT

Reach out through **Face Time, calls, or text a Scripture quote** to encourage a friend, relative, co-worker.... anyone that God brings to your mind during the day, Be an initiator. A short message could really mean a lot to someone. Even just a “thank you” for an email. I know it does to me,

### 3. GET CREATIVE

Bake a batch of cookies, or even write a kind note with your phone number offering your help or comfort, and then drop them on your neighbors' doorsteps. No contact but you are physically meeting a need for someone else,

Write some handwritten letters! **Remember, the ones with a stamp and an address?** Or why not write a thoughtful note or card for someone to receive in the mail. Doesn't it brighten your day when you receive a letter or card? It does mine.

All of these suggestions may seem **small**, but we have an opportunity to make others **feel seen and loved** in this strange and isolating time. As we reach out to others, God tells us that we ourselves will actually experience **joy** as a result. And, who doesn't need a little **joy right now?**

**Pray, reach out and be creative.**