



NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY **BLESS**

In the book of Luke, Jesus was either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal. Jesus takes the most common ordinary things of life and uses them to create an opportunity to declare the kingdom of God. A neighborhood block party is a great way for you to do the same. Over a meal, you create opportunities for neighbors to get together, meet each other and have fun.

“When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly.” Luke 19:5-6

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO HELP YOU ORGANIZE YOUR EVENT.

1. GETTING STARTED

- Find a few people on your block to help pull this together. What type of block party will work best in your neighborhood?
- Keep it Simple, you could do a barbecue, Picnics -- everyone brings their own meal; Potluck - everyone brings one dish; or cater – everyone can share the cost and the food is purchased.
- Don't start off too big, begin with a smaller event being sure not to leave out anyone in your vicinity.

2. TIME CONSIDERATIONS

- Check with the neighbors to see when you should host. Adjustments may need to be made if too many neighbors have conflicting events, then create a flyer with the info (3-4 weeks ahead).
- Mid-May to the end of August can often be a good time to host these. A weekend date or holiday is often the best time for the event.



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3. YOUR ROLE AS AN ORGANIZER

- Make decisions about the set up.
- Act as a greeter at the event.
- Set up a sign-in book for records for the next year, and it can help develop a contact list for the neighborhood.
- Introduce new neighbors and help them make connections
- Make sure the clean-up is done. (You may wish to inspire clean up by rewarding the children with a prize.)
- Nametags can be a great help - suggest them to write first and last names, house numbers etc.
- Plan out what food and drink will be there and where it will go (this includes plates, utensils, napkins, trash cans etc.)

4. WHAT TO DO?

- Visit and eat. Food is always a great tool in bringing people together.
- Games for kids (some organized, some they can plan themselves) yard games for adults.
- Take time to introduce one another and point to one's house. This can be done in a game format.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Before, during, and after the party, be praying for your neighbors by name if possible. Pay attention to what they are sharing and the things they are facing in life.
- Then, after the party, write down everything you learned about each neighbor and pray over those things as well. You may learn that another neighbor is a fellow believer with whom you can continue reaching your neighborhood. You could also share what you learned from that party with your Family Group.
- Pray continually knowing that it's the Holy Spirit who works in the hearts of people. Be prayerfully dependent that He would move powerfully in your neighborhood and that He would empower you to be used for that purpose.