

How to Find God in Your Neighbourhood

God is at work in your neighbourhood. Through careful observation and spiritual discernment you can discover the truth of God's presence and activity right where you live. Instead of looking for "problems" in your neighbourhood, try to see its strengths and places of redemptive beauty as visible signs of an invisible God at work.

God is actively bringing about the spiritual transformation of persons and the social transformation of neighbourhoods primarily through His Church in the city and in schools, hospitals, small businesses, large corporations, media and arts, families and government.

Here's how to find God in your neighbourhood:

1. **Prayer Walk/Bike/Drive your neighbourhood.** You can start small and walk your immediate neighbourhood, and then expand your prayer zone by cycling or driving in your car while you pray.
2. **Draw a Map.** Include basic street patterns and major landmarks, churches, coffee shops, community buildings, shops, schools, parks.
3. **Develop a Historical Timeline.** Take note of key people, places, building developments and significant milestones, tragedies and celebration points that took place in your neighbourhood.
4. **Note the Places of Power.** What buildings, people, and spaces in your neighbourhood control the economic, social, and cultural decisions in the city. What evidence of prosperity do you see? What signs of neglect?
5. **Note the Places of Peace.** Are there any churches? Do you see public spaces that invite community and conversation? What para-church organizations do you see? Any social service agencies? Describe the artwork, architecture and notable places of beauty, hope and safety.
6. **Note the People Groups.** Who are the major ethnic groups and sub-groups represented in your neighbourhood? Where are they located? What visible signs do you see of their presence in the community? Note the ways in which they express their ethnicity and personal values.
7. **Take Notice of God's presence.** Where did you sense the holiness of God? Where do you see his creativity displayed? When did you feel his love and compassion for the people where you live? At what points did your spirit come alive or your heart feel like praising God?
8. **Prophetically Name your Neighbourhood.** How would Jesus describe your neighbourhood? What name is God asking you to declare in faith over your neighbourhood?