

# Experiment #2 – Participating – Week of 3/ 1

## What you'll need

- An hour or less
- A piece of paper
- A pen, marker, crayons, or colored pencils
- Google or the yellow pages

## What it is

Last week, our experiment helped you observe some of the people in your community. This week, our experiment will help you identify things that are already happening in your immediate area.

To do this we are asking you to do some very basic research and bring back your findings to the group. We'll point out some ways to take it to the next level, if you have time and are curious.

## What to do

There are two tasks to complete this week.

### Task 1: Who's around me?

Draw a picture of your bank of lockers, desks arrangement in a class, seats around a lunch table, or the 5 houses closest to yours. Write down the names of the people who use those lockers, desks, seats, or live in those houses.

### Task 2: What is happening around me?

Start by drawing a map of your neighborhood. Make where you live the center of the map. And how you define your neighborhood depends a lot on your community. Draw the town you live in.

Drawing this can be fun. But if that's just too difficult feel free to print out a map from Google Maps of your neighborhood. ([maps.google.com](https://maps.google.com))

Next, draw a box around your house and any house that is within 2-3 houses. These 8-10 houses are your neighbors. (It'd be awesome if you labeled each house with their name, bonus points for that!)

The next step may take some research. But you're going to want to identify every community organization and church in your neighborhood. Community organizations are things like Scout troops, 4H Clubs, Ministries, Chamber of Commerce, Clubs, any group that gets together to do stuff. (Tip: Now that you know that, you may want to redraw your neighborhood map so it is bigger or smaller, just so you have 15-20 dots and not hundreds)

If you are using Google Maps, after you've searched for your address you can click "search nearby" to find things that are local to your house. Mark every church/religious organization with an X, every community organization with a circle, and so on. You may be surprised what you discover! There are likely boy scout troops, animal rescue shelters, and house churches that you didn't even know existed!

Last, pick a few that are really close to you, say within a couple of blocks, and see if you can find out anything about them on the internet. (Gasp, you could also call them.) All you are trying to discover is a few things that are happening in your neighborhood already.

### **Write It Down**

Now, write down 4-5 things that are happening in your neighborhood and bring them to the next meeting.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

### **How it works**

As you continue to discover who lives in your community and what is already happening, God may be speaking to you about ways to get involved. That's fantastic. Our hope in this experiment is to help you find ways that you can reorient your life around things that are happening local. We have a natural tendency to want to create something that is about what we are passionate about.

Sometimes God wants us to orient our lives around things that are already happening instead of creating something brand new. Plus, starting from scratch is way harder than helping someone who is already doing stuff. You can be instant Good News just by asking for more information and showing up to help!