

Niagara



Safe Families Canada

1 Peter 4:9–11

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

As I was traveling on the highway this week, which often gives me time to reflect, I thought about people and how they are complex, but their struggles sometimes even more so. The desire to avoid the sufferer comes naturally to us, serving them well does not. I thought of my passenger beside me; a great grandmother who has become a parent again. There are challenges that come for everyone in life. God puts things in our path, He gives us a choice on whether to respond or run from these challenges. It is often placed on our hearts in such a way that we know beyond a doubt that there is only one right way to respond. I'm guessing a big part of this great grandmother really wishes that this responsibility didn't fall on her. Yet she knows that it's the right thing to do. Her little great granddaughter needs her to be in her life, needs to be loved and cared for by her, as long as God gives her breath.

Have you ever been challenged to love others and found yourself saying: " Yes, but..."? I know I have. Maybe it was in a book or a sermon that was challenging you on how we show love to difficult people, or those we disagree with, or those who have wronged us. I have had the "yes, buts" flowing through my mind even when I try to suppress them.

Jesus was pretty familiar with people who also responded to his message in the same way.

In Luke 10:25 it says, "And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." (ESV)

What does the Lawyer do? He says, Yes, but..." who is my neighbor? We are not so different from this lawyer. We can often be very creative in avoiding the uncomfortable that our Lord calls us to. In fact so creative that often times we have convinced ourselves that we have a legitimate reason to disregard something Jesus commanded. I share all of this because we find ourselves in a season where we see so much need, so much hurt and the workers in the harvest are few. What is your "yes, but"?

I think we all know that God has called His church to build His Kingdom till he returns." He has charged his church to care for the widow, orphan, foreigner, poor, outcast, sick, naked, prisoner, etc. Are you too busy? In the wrong stage of life? Not good with people? It's too uncomfortable? Don't have the skills? If I told

you that there is a way that anyone can serve someone in some way, regardless of your skills, time, or life stage, would you be willing to give us an opportunity to share with you what that could look like for you and your church?

So here is my challenge to you.

Many of you who will read this are connected to Safe Families Niagara in some way. We are asking you to make an opportunity for us to share with your church and update on what has been happening in Niagara, what needs there are, and ways that people within your church could love their neighbour that matches their time, skills, and life stage. Whether that be at a church service, church meeting, small group, women's group, men's group, youth group, or special event. We believe that in these times God is opening doors to make himself known through the grace and love his Church has to offer. Our ask is that you help us make this connection in your church.



We Need More Friends

Family Friend Training

Interested In becoming a Family Friend or want to find out more about becoming one, training is the best way. We are holding training **Sept 11, 2025** at 7pm

Text or call 289 690 7233 or email niagara@safefamilies.ca for further details/signup.

3 Quotes

"God calls and blesses his people so that they can be a blessing to others. discipleship, therefore, is never merely a private spiritual journey. it is a calling to participate in God's redemptive plan for the world"
- source unknown

Most modern freedom is at root fear. It is not so much that we are too bold to endure rules ; it is rather we are too timid to endure responsibilities."
- G.K. Chesterton

"The heart of Christ as now he is in heaven, sitting at God's right hand and interceding for us; how it is affected and graciously disposed towards sinners on earth that do come to him; how willing to receive them ;how ready to entertain them; how tender to pity them in all their infirmities"
- Thomas Goodwin

2 Joys

This past month we were able to participate in the life of a wonderful expectant mom battling homelessness and addiction. With the help of family, our staff, and volunteers and most importantly, God's provision, we were able to connect her and her baby to life giving supports (Please pray for baby's safe arrival and mom's continuing journey to freedom from addiction.)

A single mom and her children facing eviction were able to find a last minute place to move into. While the home is smaller than what the family needs, we were able to help with the move and keep a roof over their heads. Thank you to those who helped with a truck, some storage, and the work of moving.

1 Question

What **"yes, but..."** have you been hanging on to in the face of something Jesus has been placing on your heart?

Ways you can serve:

- Praying**
- Host Family**
- Friend/ Mentor to a parent**
- Mentor to a child**
- Coach a family**

- Driver
- Babysitting
- Making Meals
- Connecting your church to this ministry
- Advocating for Safe Families in your circle of influence
- Home repair/Car repair, budgeting, legal or other services.
- Physical needs when they arise.
- Financial Support

Feel like you might like to serve, but not sure how, lets talk!

289 690 7233 (born post 1990 and hate talking on the phone, you can text this number too)



Donate

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