

The Art of Neighboring
Bulverde United Methodist Church Sermon Series

Week 4—August 4, 2019

Overview: The art of neighboring is not a conversion or church growth strategy. Motivations MATTER. Make sure that you do not have an ulterior motive or condition to love a neighbor only if they convert to your beliefs. "We don't love our neighbors to convert them, we love them because we are converted" (pg.102 Art of Neighboring book). Relationships should be built on genuine, authentic and reciprocal interactions.

Scripture: Matt 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are you comfortable sharing your story and telling people about the impact Jesus has had on your life? When did you last share your story with someone? What makes it hard to do this?

2. Are you good at allowing other people to care for you? Pg. 128 says "The art of receiving is not complicated. It comes down to being aware of our own needs. It's about opening our eyes, then being vulnerable enough to ask and receive." What current needs do you have that a neighbor might be able to help you with?

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BUMC Art of Neighboring Challenge:

When you complete a challenge item below, please share on social media and tag it: #bumcneighbor

- Prayer walk your block
- Complete your block map
- Deepen a relationship with at least one neighbor
- Complete & distribute a block directory
- Help initiate or plan a block party
- Share good neighboring ideas on BUMC social media
- Dig deeper by joining a Sunday School class or join the Virtual Study Group (see the “Studying God’s Word” page at www.bulverdeumc.org for details)

| The Art of Neighboring: BUMC 6 Week Sermon Series | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Date | Topic | Scripture |
| 7/14/2019 | Call to Neighboring | Acts 17: 26-27 |
| 7/21/2019 | Overcoming Barriers | Luke 10: 38-42 |
| 7/28/2019 | Moving Down the Line | Luke 5: 27-32 |
| 8/4/2019 | Posture Is Everything | Matthew 5: 14-16 |
| 8/11/2019 | Open Doors | Matthew 17: 1-9 |
| 8/18/2019 | A United Front | Romans 12:14-21 |

** Visit bulverdeumc.org/sermons and click on “Notes” by today’s sermon for weekly handouts.

Prayer:

Lord, as we love our neighbor, keep our motivations pure, with no agenda. Let our lights shine brightly because of our love and obedience to you. Help us to form and articulate our hope as believers so that we stand ready to explain our testimony and beliefs. Eliminate pride to allow us to be vulnerable and able to receive. Amen.

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