

The Art of Neighboring
Bulverde United Methodist Church Sermon Series
Week 6—August 18, 2019

Overview: In this final week of the Art of Neighboring Sermon series, we will discuss the Art of Forgiving, Peacemaking, and a United Front. Jesus calls us to love even our enemies; we are also called to forgive and be peacemakers. In a time when the world seems so divisive, we can be a unifying force. Remember, the journey of neighboring doesn't end as this study comes to a close - don't let your passion and desire to follow The Great Commandment fade!

Scripture: *Romans 12: 14-21 (CEB) Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider*

everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord. Instead, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head. Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is the difference between forgiving and excusing? Is ignoring the same as forgiving? As followers of Jesus, is forgiveness optional?

2. What are some of the reasons Christ-followers refuse to work together? Consider John 17:21-23, Jesus' prayer for unity among all believers. What are some barriers to unity?

BUMC Art of Neighboring Challenge:

Have you completed any of these challenges? If so, let us know on BUMC Facebook or Instagram!

- 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 neighboring ideas on BUMC social media
- Dig deeper at a Sunday School class

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, thank You for this study. Thank You for helping us learn together how to better live out Your Great Commandment. Be with us and continue to prompt our hearts on what we can do to be better neighbors. Where there is tension or offense, let us forgive freely, as You have forgiven us. Let us join together with other believers in unity to enhance and grow Your Kingdom. Amen.