

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:37-39

What is Neighbouring?

Neighbouring is all about serving and connecting with the community around us. It's more than just completing a task—it's about joining God in what He's already doing. Inspired by verses such as Jeremiah 29:7, Matthew 22:37-39, and Romans 12:13, being good neighbours is essential to living out our faith. How can we and our students become better neighbours in the places where we live, work, and play?

Questions to Consider:

- What is God already doing in our community?
- How can our church join in?

Neighbouring Well: Key Principles

1. **Be Flexible:** Plans might change—stay open to new opportunities.
2. **Stay Humble:** Ask, "How can we serve you?" rather than assuming what's needed.
3. **You Are Enough:** Relationships and encouragement are often the most valuable gifts we can offer.
4. **Think Long-Term:** Explore how partnerships can grow and make a lasting impact.

Who Can We Partner With?

Look around your neighbourhood—there's no shortage of possibilities! Consider working with:

- **Community groups:** Artists, Indigenous communities, tourists, or multicultural groups.
- **Service providers:** Health workers, first responders, or public housing communities.
- **Schools:** From daycares to post-secondary institutions.
- **Businesses and farms:** Supporting local industries.
- **Non-profits:** Focusing on food security, housing, health, or youth.
- **Environmental organizations:** Such as community gardens or conservation projects.
- **Other churches:** Teaming up for a bigger impact.

Think beyond church walls. Partnering with non-faith-based organizations helps students see God's work in new contexts.

What Can Neighbouring Look Like?

Neighbouring opportunities usually fit into these categories:

1. **Work projects:** Repairs, painting, or trail clean-up.
2. **Serving food:** Preparing and sharing meals.
3. **Supporting businesses or farms:** Helping local workers thrive.
4. **Joining non-profits:** Assisting with their community efforts.
5. **Serving seniors or families:** Building connections across generations.
6. **Give-aways:** Creating or donating items for others.

For variety, choose projects from different categories. Some may overlap—for example, painting a school could be both a work project and service to kids and families.

Responding to Questions

When community partners ask why you're serving, here's a simple response:

"We believe Jesus came to bring wholeness to the world—within ourselves, our communities, the environment, and our relationship with God. As his followers, we're called to join in this work, and that's why we're here."

Ask your community partners why they do what they do—you may be inspired by their answers!

How Can We Involve Others in our church?

Encourage youth and volunteers to think about people in the congregation who can help. For example:

- A carpenter could help build a community picnic table.
- A gardener could assist with landscaping at a school.
- Someone with a gift for conversation could connect with new people.

This is a great way to involve adults who are passionate about specific causes.



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Mini-Projects for Spare Moments

Have a list of quick projects ready for downtime, such as:

- Texting unchurched friends to encourage them.
- Hiding painted rocks in a playground for children to find.
- Writing encouraging notes and placing them in public spaces.
- Delivering coffee and doughnuts to construction workers.
- Handing out freezies or coupons for ice cream.
- Picking up litter at a park.
- Paying for someone's coffee or parking meter.

Having extra or "wish list" projects ready, such as additional trail clean-up or weeding at a community garden, ensures the group stays productive even if they finish tasks early.