

Good Neighbor

Over and over again, the Bible reminds us that, as Christ followers, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. It is our privilege and responsibility to care for others and to love them the way God loves them. This is Kingdom work. This truth permeates Scripture and should permeate our thoughts, words, deeds, and actions as well. With the Bible as our guide, we can understand what it truly means to be a good neighbor.

A Good Neighbor Wants Others to Succeed

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

Matthew 22:39

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

How do I encourage others during this time?

1. Read Scripture
2. Write a letter
3. Be a good example to my siblings/parents

IN ACTION

Play a game about ways to be good neighbors

The children will describe how Jesus wants us to love and help our neighbors.

Directions

Ask if the children have ever played "Mother May I?"

Tell the children that they will be playing a game similar to it.

Have all the children line up against a wall on one side of the room.

You should be on the opposite side of the room.

Tell the children that you will be playing the part of Jesus in this game.

Starting at one side of the line, have the first child address you by saying, "Jesus, I was a good neighbor when I...May I take...steps to follow you?"

Respond with either yes or no depending on the act of kindness.

As each child reaches you (Jesus), he or she is a winner..

Love thy neighbor circle (print one for each child or do it as a family)

1. Explain each ring, write names in each circle color each circle your favorite colors.
2. Put it on the fridge to remind you all week to love your neighbors.

Some craft ideas

HAND HEARTS: Provide the children will construction paper, pencils or markers and scissors. The children will trace their hands and then cut them out as much as possible. Then place the hands on another piece of construction paper with the thumbs and pointer fingers laying together. This should form a HEART. Glue the hands on the paper and let children write words on the fingers of the hands from today's lesson about showing love and GOD's love for us.

HAND PAINTING: Provide children with finger paints and painting paper. Children can spread their colors of paints around the paper and then lay their colored hands on the paper with the thumbs and pointer fingers together to form a HEART. Children could use a cotton swab or craft stick to write at the top of their hand painting - LOVING GOD, LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR, or other words of choice.

LOVE HEART PERSON: Provide children with a piece of construction paper to cut out a very large heart. Children can be given strips of paper that the children can tape on their heart as arms and legs. Let children decorate and use glitter for children to spread around their heart with paint brushes. Children can write LOVING GOD on their heart person and hang around the room.

LOVE CARD: Children can be given a small piece of card stock or construction paper to fold in half. Write LOVE on the outside with a decorated heart and stickers, if available. Inside the card, the children can write words from today's Bible verse and stand on their kitchen tables at home to talk about God's Love and how to love others.

God is so Good to us. He is the perfect example of being a good neighbor. As a parent it is hard to always turn the other cheek, or embrace difficult people. This week I encourage you to sit outside just before dusk with your kids and pray for each person that walks by. You don't have to tell the people you are praying for them, just encourage your children to say HI, wave and silently as a family pray for your neighbors. Be an example, on purpose, of Gods love in action.