

Session 6

Tending & Mending
week starting April 2



OPENING PRAYER

Open with your own prayer, or the Prayer for Neighbors found at sov.church/neighboring.

OPENER (CHOOSE ONE)

- What type of person really bugs you? How do you respond?
- Are you more of a troublemaker or peacekeeper?

REFLECT ON SUNDAY'S SERMON

- What stood out or inspired you from the message this week?
- Do you have questions? What did you learn?

VIDEO

Optional View the Session 6 video from the 6-week study at artofneighboring.com/resources.

READ & DISCUSS

Loving our neighbors sounds easy, but we know it isn't that simple. Over the past several weeks, you've been taking steps to better know and care for your neighbors. What about the ones who are hard to love or even like? People bug us and we bug them. If we're honest, just living and being ourselves can create friction with others! But because we experience God's love and forgiveness, we are to love and forgive others, even our "enemies."

1. Have someone read Romans 12:9–18 aloud. Which of these instructions in how to love is easy for you? Which is difficult?
2. How are we to respond to those who are not loving, or even hostile, to us? Is loving your enemies realistic—why or why not?
3. In what ways does your relationship with Jesus help you to love others?
4. Have you personally had, or witnessed, a conflict with a neighbor? What happened? Has it been resolved?
5. What happens over time when you fail to forgive people who have wronged you?
6. We are encouraged to "do what is right" and "live at peace with everyone" (verses 17 & 18). What steps could you take to reconcile with someone?
7. What has been your biggest takeaway or progress made during this series?

LIVE IT OUT

1. What Live It Out neighboring step did you take this past week? How did it go?
2. Have you made the progress with your Block Map that you desired? Has it been easy or difficult? What difference have the steps you've taken made?
3. How will you keep your neighboring efforts going? Is there a challenge you'd like to take on in the future? What or who will you need to be successful?
4. Even simple stories can encourage and inspire others. Is there a neighboring story you or your group could share? Use the form at sov.church/stories to share your neighboring story.
Group Challenge: Who from your group will share a story?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank you for challenging us to know and love our neighbors. We are so grateful that you first loved and forgave us, showing us how to love and forgive others. We ask for your help as we seek to forgive and mend our relationships with (pause, and invite members to add someone's first name aloud or silently). We thank you for the progress made in our relationships with our neighbors (invite group members each to express a sentence with a specific example). Help us to keep praying for our neighbors, and making progress in the area of loving our neighbors well. Amen.

RESOURCES

- Visit sov.church/neighboring for resources and practical ways to reach out to neighbors.
- Find block maps, videos and additional discussion questions at artofneighboring.com/resources.
- Want to dig deeper? Read and discuss *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon.