



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR COVENANT



What is a covenant?

After the flood in the Old Testament, God enters into a “covenant” with Noah and his descendants promising to protect and provide for them (Gen. 9:8-10). Today, Christians use the word “covenant” to refer to the promises we make to one another and God about how we will act together and live out the gospel.



What is a love your neighbour covenant?

In the New Testament, Jesus tells us that one of the greatest commandments we are meant to live by is “loving our neighbours as ourselves” (Matt. 22:39). In the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37), Jesus illustrates that the category of “neighbour” includes *all* people, even those who are different from us.

In a broken world full of division and chaos, Christians are called to be people of peace, unity and hope. One way that we can be a light in the world in dark times is by recommitting ourselves to these values. Creating a “love your neighbour” covenant is a simple exercise that you can do as an individual, family, household, or congregation to recommit yourselves to loving your neighbour.



How can we make a love your neighbour covenant?

- 1) Choose a few Bible passages and stories that you feel reflect Christ's vision of “loving your neighbour” or use the sample passages below.
- 2) Discuss those passages with your group or reflect on them on your own: What words, themes or images stand out?
 - a. If you are doing this exercise with young children, keep it simple. Give them only one story, passage, or biblical image and ask them where they see love.
- 3) Based on what you've discussed, come up with a few sentences or even just a few words to sum up how you feel God is calling you to love your neighbour.
- 4) Write or draw out your covenant and put it in a place where you'll see it often as a reminder to yourself and others of your commitment to loving your neighbours.



Why not make your covenant artistic?

- ◆ Use readily-available household art supplies (crayons, markers, pens, paint) to write out your covenant and put it on your fridge for all to see.
- ◆ Enter the words of your covenant into a free “word cloud” generator online and create your own covenantal word art.
- ◆ Draw a picture of what “loving your neighbour” looks like to you and hang it on your bedroom wall.
- ◆ Create a poster-sized covenant to hang in a prominent place in your home, church, or classroom. Decorate it in any way you want.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada
{Love Your Neighbour Covenant}

Bible Verses

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it” – Hebrews 13:2

“... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” – Matthew 25:34-35

“Let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God” – 1 John 4:7

“Which of these three, do you think, was neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” he said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.” – (Luke 10: 25-37)

Resources:

Find out what Christian musician David Lamott is doing to be a good neighbour.

<https://www.letsbeneighbors.org/>

Learn how religious leaders are engaging across faith lines in an effort to promote peace and harmony in our world.

<http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/>

Read about religious people from all faiths loving their Muslim neighbours by providing them protection from violence.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/programs/metromorning/rings-of-peace-mosques-1.3965313>