

Create



✓ Prepare in Advance

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Breath of God

Ask someone to read **Romans 13:8-14**. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: Paul tells the Romans that while the law may be important, the law is not all there is to following Jesus. Paul, relying on Jesus' teaching, says that all of the various written laws are summed up in the statement, "Love your neighbor as yourself." He explains that love fulfills the whole law because love will never do harm to another.

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing**, **Visual**, or **Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✓ Create — Writing

Write your name on a sheet of paper. Draw a large circle around it. Inside the circle, write words or phrases of things you like about yourself. Answer the question, "What do I love about who I am?" Next, draw a large heart. Inside the heart, list the names (or words that describe them if you don't know their names) of all your neighbors. Neighbors can be physical, next-door neighbors, but they are also people you go to school with, people you work with, people in your community, in your state, or in neighboring states. We also have our neighboring countries, full of people of different cultures and beliefs. Look at your list of neighbors, choose 2-4 of them, and write words or phrases of things you like about them or would want to learn about them. Answer the question, "What do I love about my neighbor?" When you finish, ask yourself if it was easier to come up with reasons you love yourself or reasons you love your neighbor. Ponder your answer and what it may mean at this point in your life.

✓ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Paint a picture that tells the story of what it means to truly love your neighbor. Somewhere in the image include pieces of the text from Romans 13:8-14.

✓ Create — Outside the Box

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Write a poem, free verse or rhyming, that includes two or more of these phrases from our scripture text today, "owe no one anything," "for the one who loves another has," "love your neighbor as yourself," "love does no wrong," "you know what time it is," "wake from sleep," "the night is far gone, the day is near," or "lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

✓ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✓ Close

Offer a prayer asking God to help you learn how to truly love all your neighbors.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place).

by Carra Hughes Greer

