



United: Community

MAIN POINT:

God planted people around us so that we can love them and guide them towards Jesus!

KEY VERSE:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
Luke 10:27

BRING IT UP:

On Sunday, Pastor Steve continued in our United series by talking how we can exemplify and strive for a united community. Regardless of if you live in the city or country, we want to ask ourselves today if we are contributing to unity or disunity in our community. Steve talked about the Bowman Street stereotype to point to a divided community rather than one that is united. He touched on several differences in our community...or any community for that matter that range from economic, educational, gender and race. We learned that not only are we to love our neighbors but we are to hold fast to the truth that God made all people equal in value. Rather than dividing over the differences, can we unite in our shared value?

- ◆ What was your biggest takeaway from the message Sunday?

TALK IT OVER:

- ◆ Describe some of the differences that you see in our community today.

Steve spoke to the value of both knowing and loving your neighbor regardless of any differences that may be between you.

- ◆ How familiar would you say you are with your neighbors?

- ◆ How would you describe your relationship/attitude towards people who hold different beliefs than you or are just different than you in any of the ways that Steve described?

[Read Luke 10:25-37]

- ◆ In what way in this parable similar to what happens in our culture today?
- ◆ What stood out about the Samaritan from the priest and Levite and how does that translate to our own relationship/attitude with those who are different than us?

THINK IT THROUGH:

Pastor Steve talked about the relationship between “convenience” and “compassion”. Convenience says, “Everyone has value, someone should help... just not me” while compassion says, “Everyone has value. Someone should help. Why not me?” The best way to apply this truth to your life is taking the “love your neighbor” challenge described in the message Sunday!

- ◆ What has held you back from getting to know your neighbors?

“I want to be a part of building an even better future together. And the change and unity we’re looking for will come less by posting and yelling and more by walking across the street and building friendships.” - Pastor Nick

WORK IT OUT:

As you conclude your group time, take the time to pray for one another and the unifying work that God is calling us to do in the midst of our divided community!

Consider these words from Pastor Steve:

“What if change in our community started on the micro level? Those who follow Jesus are uniquely positioned to demonstrate that kind of love. What if change began in your individual heart through your personal involvement? What if that change was felt in your apartment building, in your cul-de-sac, on the country road where you live? What if it spread throughout our community? What if our community...as diverse as it is...was united by the inconvenient compassion that you and I choose to demonstrate?”