

Week three

Global neighbours

► Getting started

Imagine you are a pioneer settler, in charge of a newly formed community. What rules would you need to help people live and work harmoniously with their neighbours? Write your ideas below.

■ Bible reading: Leviticus 19:1-18

|| Discussion questions

1. Who were these laws given to (v.2)? Who was exempt from obeying them? How do they compare with the rules that you devised earlier?
2. Which areas of life do these laws cover?
3. Which groups of people are named as needing special concern (v.10,13-15)? Do these groups have anything in common?
4. Why should the people obey these laws set out here (v.1)?
5. Why do you think 'I am the LORD your God' is repeated throughout this passage? In each of the places it's used, what does the context remind us about the character of God?
6. What would 'loving your neighbour' mean in practice, according to these laws, for an employer, a farmer or a vineyard owner? Is their *first* duty to make a profit?
7. What could it mean for us today not to 'reap to the edges of the field'? What principles underpinning these laws might help us to tackle poverty today?

▶▶ Activity

In today's 'global village', who are *our* neighbours?

How do these common activities make connections between us and people overseas?

Shopping for food _____

Driving to work _____

Buying new clothes _____

Going on holiday _____

Read **Irma's story** (inside back cover) and the '**Did you know?**' (p.14) box. How can we show love to neighbours that we will never meet:

- by changing our lifestyles and how we shop?
- by changing governments or companies?

† Closing prayer

Think about your activities today – the newspapers you've read, music you've listened to, food you've eaten, people you've spoken to, the clothes that you are wearing. As you pray, think about how you are connected to neighbours in different countries.

Uniting God,
help us to connect our prayers to our lives
our words to our actions
our love to our living
each of us to one another
and to you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

MRDF/Sarah Hagger

◆ This week

During the week, take one action, related to your daily activities, to better love your global neighbours. Keep it simple: whether it's sending a campaign postcard, buying a different product or taking the bus instead of the car. Be prepared to share your ideas and actions next week.