

# Won't You be my Neighbor?

**The Big Idea** - By working together, we can show Springfield and the world that people of different faiths can love each other, be good neighbors, and work together to promote peace.

## What Would Jesus (Tell us) Do

1. To be good neighbors we must greet one another.

*If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. - Jesus Christ*

2. To be good neighbors we must love one another.

- Loving each other is more important than all our religious rituals.
- When we understand that loving our neighbors as we love ourselves is one of the most important laws, Jesus says that we are close to the Kingdom of heaven.

### Mark 12 - The Greatest Commandment

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

3. To be good neighbors we must meet each other's needs and bind each other's wounds.

## Are Muslims our Enemies?

### Step 1 - A look at the Numbers & the Risk.

1.6 Billion Muslims 23% of the world's population.

According to PEW Research Muslims comprise about 1% of the US population. By 2050 this number is expected to increase to 2%.

According to a report (Jihadist Terror: A Threat Assessment) issued by the Department of Homeland Security and the Bipartisan Policy Center there are only 85,000-106,000 people formally connected to jihadist terror groups. This is .0000665 of the Muslim population. Most are focused on regional conflicts. The number involved in exporting acts of terror are estimated at 14,000, .000009 of all Muslims.

You are 200X more likely to die in a skydiving accident than by a terrorist. The odds of being killed by a terrorist are about the same as being killed by a dog or a malfunctioning piece of furniture in your home.

### Step 2 Are terrorists even true Muslims?

It is 3X more likely that a person claiming to be a Christian in America will be a member of the KKK than it is for a Muslim to be a terrorist.

Major Muslim organizations in America and around the world strongly denounce terrorism and anti-Semitism.

**Article about Teen who creates 719 page spreadsheet of Muslim Clerics and Organizations who have strongly denounced terrorism.**

<http://www.teenvogue.com/story/teen-makes-spreadsheet-muslim-groups-leaders-deno-uncing-terrorism>

**719 Spreadsheet**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1e8BjMW36CMNc4-qc9UNQku0blstZSzp5FMtkdlavqzc/edit#gid=0>

**US Council of Muslim Organizations** (Scroll through to see a history of statements denouncing acts of terror and anti-Semitism)

<http://www.uscmo.org/pressreleases/>

Carl Ruby, [carl.ruby@ccspringfield.org](mailto:carl.ruby@ccspringfield.org)

