

# X ENGAGE COMMUNITY

## PEACEMAKING IN COMMUNITY

*Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.  
- Romans 12:18*

Our faith is **not individual**. It calls us to live alongside others in a way that witnesses to the love of God and invites others in. Our faith is centred around **community**.

We are called as followers to be a **community of peace**. But making peace is vulnerable work because it's not simply avoiding conflict, it involves engaging in conversation with those who have hurt us, and whom we have hurt, or with those who we just plain old disagree with. It's engaging in relationship with those who we tend to *other*.

Stanley Hauerwas says we resist doing the hard work of peacemaking because if we actually engage with someone with whom we have issues, we might find out that we are actually part of the problem, or they might even repent and then we don't have an excuse to be mad at them anymore.

Peacemaking is vulnerable, hard work. It requires courage.

But it is a powerful way of engaging and building community.

## PRACTICE FOR THE COMING WEEK

1. Think of someone with whom the relationship is a little off. You had a disagreement about something, or they did something to offend you, and so you just took a step back. But over time, that small thing has grown, the small step feels more like a cavern, and now you avoid them, or there's something in the way.
2. Make peace with them. Maybe it just requires seeking them out to say hi and make sure everything is ok. Have the conversation.  
Ask the questions: Did I hurt you? How can we make this right?  
Apologize.  
Ask for forgiveness.