

LIFE GROUP LESSON –August 15, 2010

“Love Your Enemies” – Matthew 5:43-48

We have come to the conclusion in our Life Group lessons that we are giving you way more than you can possibly teach in a 30 teaching time. At the beginning of the year, we reduced the amount of material we gave you by half and tried to cut the one lesson down some. We feel like we still need to simplify things. With the notes you are taking during the sermons and the extra material in the Life Group lesson, there is no way possible you can review it all. Plus, with all the material provided, it can become confusing on just what part to focus on.

Our new goal with Life Group lessons is to provide you with good questions and other scriptures you can use with your people to bring about discussion and interaction. Your people need to interact, discuss and find application in the weekend sermon. Please take good notes as a leader. Write down some of your own questions. Pull out the main points of the sermon in your lesson. Use the questions below to help bring discussion in your groups. The goal is not to use all of these questions and scriptures but to find the ones that get your group into discussion and interaction.

Matthew 5:43-48 NIV

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

LEADER: Share a time when you were made fun of, teased, and embarrassed at the brunt of someone’s cruelty.

QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever been the target of someone’s ridicule, cruel laughter or bullying? Have you ever felt rejected or hurt by someone? Why is it hard to love that person?
2. Why is it easy to “love your neighbor” and not “love your enemies”?
3. Define “love”. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8; John 15:13; 1 John 4:8)
4. Is it ever ok to hate someone?
5. Who are our enemies?
6. Does loving our enemies mean we agree with them and give into them?
7. How do you bless your enemies?
8. How do you pray for your enemies?
9. How does forgiveness allow you to love your enemies?
10. Why do we love our enemies? (Matthew 5:45; John 3:16)
11. Read 1 John 3:18 and discuss how you can love with actions and in truth.
12. Read 1 John 4:20. What do you get out this scripture?

OTHER SCRIPTURES ON LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

Proverbs 15:1

Proverbs 16:7

Prov. 25: 21-22

Luke 6:27

Romans 12:17-19