

TENSIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

GROUP LEADER GUIDE: WEEK ELEVEN

LOVE YOUR ENEMY AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU!

Read Matthew 5:43-48.

Love your enemies

How have you been taught to treat your enemies or those who offend you and don't like you?

Who taught you this?

When Jesus said to love your enemies, was he teaching avoidance of conflict? If not, what was He teaching?

As we go through the following section, consider the enemies you have had or have. If none, then think of the difficult people you have to deal with.

Are you any different?

What are the two things Jesus commands us to do to our enemies?

- 1.
- 2.

What is the tension for you personally to doing either of them?

The evidence of a changed life is in how we love our neighbor. - Pastor Kelly

Like Jesus

How did Jesus show love for His enemies? Can you think of an example?

Read Acts 7:59-60.

How did Stephen follow Jesus example in these verses? How do you want to be more like Jesus when it comes to loving your enemies?

KEY VERSES

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Romans 12:14



Be Perfect

What does perfect mean? Do you remember from previous lessons?

How does this value and the previous ones show you the perfect love of God?

I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

Acts 10:34

How does this value reveal the indiscriminatory and impartial love of God?

Closing Prayer

Spend a moment discussing what you need personally to help you grow in this area.

Then have each person in the group pray for the people who are their enemies or just difficult to love. Pray also for your heart and how you need to be like Jesus. Each person should end praying for a blessing in their lives, this could be forgiveness, salvation for them, peace, or some other condition needed for the love of Jesus to be made more real in their lives.