

Matthew 5:43-48 /// Week of March 19

Today's big idea:

This is a bit of a transparency test. Take note of what people are sharing, or not sharing, and how deep they do with it. Again, be sure to model transparency and vulnerability.

- Share with the group about something hard you have done or gone through.
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together.
- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.

Head

This is a teaching of Jesus—no dialogue and no action—but it is still manageable enough to do storytelling. You don't have to memorize it word for word.

- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of loving your enemies.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Matthew 5:43-48 in the Bible.
- What would have been considered normal for the people that Jesus was speaking to?
- What were the abnormal things that Jesus was calling his followers to?
- What is the connection between loving your enemies and going All the Way to live a holy life with the Lord?

Heart

This may bring up some issues of unforgiveness. If so, be sure to follow up with a conversation outside of the group time.

- What are some of the thoughts, feelings and struggles that come up as you consider loving your enemies?
- Why is it so hard to love those who don't love you?

Hands

Group members may struggle to share steps they need to take because those steps might be hard. Model this for them and be willing to go first.

- Being perfect means to be complete or whole. How can you submit your insecurities, wounds and temptations to the Lord in order that you might be made whole?
- Sometimes your "enemy" is a stranger but it can also be the people you are the closest to. How is God challenging you to love in an abnormal way?
- Close in prayer together.



Community Group Covenants - hfcog.org

Community Group Member Covenant

- I will make attendance a priority in my schedule and involvement a priority in my participation.
- I will build trust by holding in confidence those things shared in the Community Group.
- I will engage with a disciple maker—someone that will help me grow as a disciple of Jesus and teach me how to be a disciple maker as well.

Community Group Apprentice Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple someone in the Community Group beyond group meetings focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Leader each week and meet monthly beyond group meetings.

Community Group Leader Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple someone in or out of the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple an apprentice focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, leadership skills they are developing in the group meeting and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Coach each week and meet monthly.

Community Group Coach Covenant

- I will pray for my assigned Community Group Leaders daily.
- I will relationally disciple someone.
- I will call my assigned Community Group Leaders each week focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, process group time and their progress with their apprentice.
- I will meet with my assigned Community Group Leaders each month.
- I will talk with my Community Group Pastor every other week and meet together each month.