

# All the Way

## Community Group

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

### **Today's big idea:**

- 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**

- 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**

- 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**

- 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 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.



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## **COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES**

### **Confidentiality**

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

### **Don't Rescue & Don't Fix**

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

### **No Crosstalk**

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

### **Use Humor Responsibly**

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

### **Give Everyone a Chance to Share**

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

### **Use "I" Statements**

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

### **Fight for Relationship**

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.