

## Don't Take It Personal?

Community Group Leaders Guide

Matthew 5:43-48 /// Week of March 3

Today's big idea: Enemies are not our enemies.

- Share with the group your biggest pet peeve.
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together.
- What did you hear in the sermon that caught your attention?
- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.

Head

**This would be a great week to invite someone else in the group to do the Bible Storytelling. It is very short and pretty well known.**

- Use Bible Storytelling 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.
- Before Jesus, what was the common understanding for how to treat your enemies and those who love you?
- How, specifically, did Jesus tell his followers to love their enemies?
- How did the Father show his love for the righteous and the unrighteous?

Heart

**For people who don't think they have enemies this subject will be easy. For those who do this may be very challenging. Listen well to your people. Help those without enemies not to trivialize it. For those with enemies, don't fix and don't rescue.**

- Why is it so hard to love people who are not just annoying but unrighteous and evil?
- Why is it important for us to pray for our enemies?
- Perfection here is not sinlessness but completion and wholeness in Christ. What does that have to do with loving your enemies?

Hands

**Notice the second question which looks at this from the other side. For all of them, help your group move from discussion to action in spite of hard feelings that may exist.**

- How have you loved someone who has hurt you?
- How could you love someone who may consider you to be their enemy?
- How could you walk along side someone who is struggling to love their enemy?
- Pray for one another and for those who might be hard to love.

Next Week:

Dress for the Occasion. Colossians 3: 12-14