



WELCOME TO LIFE GROUP

This Fall, we are focusing on our values of Experiencing God and Loving Others through our sermon series, OVERFLOW.

This week, Jesus confronted us with a teaching that everyone likes, yet few live out faithfully: Love your enemies.

Drew explained how Jesus identifies who our enemies are, how we are to respond, and why love for enemies is so necessary as passionate Jesus followers.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Our discipleship to Jesus is meant to be a holistic way of living, involving our whole selves - **head, heart, and hands**. While each person will likely gravitate to one of these over the others, it's important we all consider how God's love affects our minds, our hearts, and our actions.



What idea from the sermon stuck out to you most this week?



What questions do you have that were either raised or left unanswered by the sermon?



How do you typically respond to enemies? (Avoid? Ignore? Attack? Serve? Judge?)

Do you know anyone who is an enemy to you because they are opposed to your faith? How does understanding the spiritual reality influence how you respond to them?



Jesus said, "Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them." How would you like to be treated by someone you've sinned against or hated in the past?

Drew said, "The only acceptable reason you have as a follower of Jesus to identify anyone as an enemy is to clarify how you are going to love them." Do you agree or disagree? How does that challenge you personally?

What keeps you from following Jesus' command - "Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful"?



Who are the enemies that come to mind for you - the people who feel negatively, speak negatively, or act negatively toward you - that Jesus is inviting you to love?

GROUP APPLICATION - Confess to one another the ways in which you've responded like the world toward your enemies, rather than like Jesus. Extend God's grace and forgiveness to one another as you receive others' confessions.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for your enemies (by name, if you feel comfortable doing so). Pray for them to know and follow Jesus, if they don't already. Ask God to bless them, bringing about their good, their transformation, and their flourishing.

Pray for yourself. Ask God to empower you to love your enemies with actions, words, and prayers. Pray for the Spirit to form you to be more like Jesus and less like the world as you relate to your enemies.

LUKE 6:27-36

²⁷ “But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

²⁹ If anyone hits you on the cheek, offer the other also. And if anyone takes away your coat, don't hold back your shirt either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and from someone who takes your things, don't ask for them back. ³¹ Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them.

³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do what is good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full.

³⁵ But love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. For he is gracious to the ungrateful and evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.