



BelPres Church

Group Discussion Guide: Enemies

BelPres Fall Community Groups begin this week!

Connect in Community: Gather with your community group (online or in-person) to discuss this week's sermon. If you didn't attend church this week, you can listen to the message online anytime during the week before your group meets. Being in regular community with others helps us notice how Jesus forms disciples over time and how the Holy Spirit uses regular people as part of God's work.

Introductions: Spend a few minutes catching up with returning members and welcoming new members. Ask each person to share a little bit about themselves as well as a favorite summer memory or moment.

Read this Week's Scripture: Open your bibles and read through this week's scripture passage together:

Matthew 5:43-48

Discuss the scripture: After reading the scripture together, discuss the following:

- What do you find that is surprising in this passage? What does it suggest about who God is or what matters to him?
- Does this passage prompt or challenge you in any specific ways? Does it invite you to be bold in a new or different way?

Discuss the sermon: Reflecting on this week's sermon, discuss the following:

- Are you comfortable acknowledging enemies in your life, or have you lived thinking it's better not to have enemies at all?
- What's the hardest part about praying for or loving enemies? What might be some consequences of not praying for them?

Make an action plan for the week:

- What action step or practice do you want to try this week?
- How have you noticed the Holy Spirit prompting you during our discussion time today?

Close in prayer: Close with a few minutes sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Take the challenging parts of your conversation to Jesus. Thank God for your time together, the conversation you've shared, the other people you've gathered with today, and for encouragement in the week ahead.