



Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 01/04/2026
DISCUSSION DATE: 01/11/2026
TEXT: MATTHEW 5:43-48

WHEN THE IMPOSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE

I. LOVE YOUR ENEMIES (v. 44)

II. PRAY FOR YOUR PERSECUTORS (v. 44)

III. MANIFEST YOUR SONSHIP (v. 45)

IV. EXCEED THE LOVE OF COMMON MEN (vv. 46-47)

V. BE LIKE YOUR GOD (v. 48)

FOR CONFERENCING

1. **Read Matthew 5:43-48.** What's your first thought or reaction when reading the words, *love your enemies, bless them who curse you, and do good to those who hate you?* Why might those statements seem unreasonable or impossible to heed?

2. According to **vs. 43**, what was the rabbinical teaching/tradition regarding the treatment of one's neighbor and enemy? What are your thoughts regarding that? **Read Matthew 5:38.** How did the Jew's twisted view of that Old Testament command contribute to them thinking that there are some people that they should hate? (Referring back to the sermon titled *When to Forgo Your Rights* and the corresponding conference guide will help you with this question.)

3. Can you think of some examples of how Jesus "practiced what He preached" in this regard in both loving others and even His enemies? Describe them.

4. **Read Acts 7:54-60.** How did Stephen demonstrate the principle of loving your enemies in this passage? What enabled him to do what seemed impossible to do in that situation?

5. **Read Luke 10:25-37.** How did Jesus answer when the lawyer asked the question "*what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*" Why did the lawyer feel like he needed to justify himself? In the parable, a wounded Jew needed help. Why would a Samaritan be less likely to help the man than the priest and the Levite? Who then is the "*neighbor*" in Jesus' parable? What is the "moral" of the parable (include verse 37 in your answer)?

6. In **vs. 44**, when Jesus said, "*love your enemies,*" He used the Greek word *agapao* which means to love in a moral sense. He did not use a word for love that means to have an affection for or a fondness toward (*phileo*). How may this help you understand what Jesus was commanding?

7. **Read Romans 12:20.** How does obeying this command help us not to be overcome with sin?

8. Considering **vss. 45-48**, can you explain points III, IV, & V from the outline of the sermon on the other side? Can you apply them to the context of the command, "*love your enemies.*"