



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Sermon Series: The Narrow Path

Sermon Title and Date: Week 14 – Our Enemies; April 13, 2025

Summary

In this final sermon of the Narrow Path series, Pastor Tim discusses Jesus's challenging command to love our enemies. Drawing from Matthew 5:43-48 and Luke 6:27-36, he emphasizes that loving our enemies is not optional for sincere followers of Jesus. The sermon explores how this command goes beyond just those who actively oppose us, extending to anyone we struggle to love.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss the challenging topic of loving our enemies, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to Your truth. Help us to be receptive to what You want to teach us today, even when it makes us uncomfortable. Guide our discussion and help us grow in our ability to love as You love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Think back to when you were a child - what was your typical response when someone was mean to you or hurt your feelings? How has that response changed (or not changed) as you've grown older?

Key Verses

- Matthew 5:43-48
- Luke 6:27-36
- Romans 12:21
- Colossians 3:12

Questions

1. How would you define an 'enemy' in your own life? Who are the people you find difficult to love?
2. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes loving our enemies as a crucial part of following Him?
3. What role does prayer play in our ability to love our enemies?
4. How can speaking truth in love differ from just speaking truth?
5. What makes showing empathy and compassion to our enemies so challenging?
6. How might our enemies reveal areas where we need to grow spiritually?

7. What's the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation when dealing with enemies?
8. How can the Holy Spirit help us in loving our enemies?

Life Application

This week, identify one person you struggle to love or consider an enemy. Commit to praying for them daily, asking God to bless them and help you see them through His eyes. Before reacting to any conflict with them, pause and pray first, asking God for guidance on how to respond in love.

Key Takeaways

- Loving our enemies requires prayer, truth-telling, and empathy/compassion
- Our response to enemies should come from a place of peace, not hurt
- Enemies can reveal areas where we need to grow spiritually
- Loving our enemies is a supernatural endeavor that requires the Holy Spirit's help
- We must 'stay until' we hear from God before responding to those who hurt us

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge that loving our enemies is one of the most challenging commands You've given us. We cannot do this in our own strength. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and empower us to love as You love. Help us to pray for those who hurt us, tell truth in love, and show genuine compassion. Transform our hearts to be more like Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.