

Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

For the sake of time, you may want to choose one or two questions.

Warm up:

How would you define "love" to someone? What is the essence of love? What does it mean to love another person?

Read

Read Matthew 5:43-48. Have you heard the ideas expressed in this passage before? What have you thought about them?

Discuss

1. What are your thoughts about the statement that "We often define ourselves by being against something"? Is this a good or a bad thing?
2. Can you love another person while at the same time wanting nothing to do with them? Can you love a person without reconciling with them? Can you love another person and still hold them accountable?
3. What does praying for our enemies do for us? How does verbalizing our intentions help us actualize them? Does Jesus instruct us to pray for our enemies because he wants us to convince God to do good to them, or because he wants the prayer to transform us?
4. Is there an enemy you are prompted to pray for this week? If appropriate, share whom you are praying for with your group. If you have already been praying for this person, have you seen any change in yourself?



Wrap Up:

Close your time together in prayer.