

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:

Do you agree with the statement "You can love someone without liking them"? Why or why not?

Read

Read Matthew 5:43-48

- What seems confusing about Jesus' teaching?
- What about this passage is difficult to understand?

Discuss

1. Can you think of an example where holding someone accountable could be the most loving thing you could do for them?
2. Under what circumstances might love prompt you to reconcile with someone? Can you think of a situation where it would not be appropriate to reconcile with someone you still chose to love?
3. What does a mean to have a "favorable disposition" toward someone? What would it practically look like to have a favorable disposition toward your enemy?
4. How does an understanding of someone's story often make it easier to love (act lovingly toward) them? How well do you know the stories of the people you do not like?
5. What role should the church play in helping people understand each other's stories? What role should the church play in creating a world without enemies?

Wrap Up:

Close your time together in prayer.

