



Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 2 for directions)

Y / N
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LOOK BACK:

Point: *Intentions matter! Stop trying to be good and start fixing your mind on your relationship with Jesus.*

- Share with the group what you learned from your three-day journal. What will you change?

Question: What is the difference between following the letter of the law and adhering to the spirit of the law?

LOOK UP: Watch this week’s video on the 4G web page.

Recap: There are those in life who would have ill intent towards us. They are called enemies. We’ve all had them, from family members to those who don’t even know us and live on the other side of the world. We might even wish or pray that they get their just rewards or just plain go away. But Jesus continues His “*You have heard it said...*” verses with a new twist on our relationships with those who might be enemies – we are to love them.

To love those who seek to harm us requires suffering and humility – traits that aren’t exactly the American way. Such displays ultimately show where our true assurance resides and points to our heavenly Father and what He has done for us. We love because God loves us and wants all people to be reconciled to Himself through us.

LOOK IN: Discussion

- Share an example of when you or someone else got insulted but reacted with only a blessing. What resulted?
- Share an example of when you or someone else gave money, food, shelter, etc., to someone who would otherwise have despised them. What resulted?
- Read Matthew 5:45. Discuss the meaning and implications of the words “*so that*” (CSB, ESV).

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *A life built on love will last.*



Loving Those Who Love Us Is Easy; Try Something Hard.

Who are your enemies? (You have no love for them, and/or they have no love for you.)

Politically

Religiously

Community

Family

Jesus gives us this command in Matthew 5:44: “*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*”

This week, write out a prayer for each of those above and pray.

Is there some action you could intentionally take to show one of them godly love?

Try it and see what happens.

Why?

Jesus follows His command in Matthew 5:44 with this in Matthew 5:45a: “*So that you may be children of your Father in heaven.*”

Show others that you are a child of God.

