



October 24th Discussion Guide

Radical Love: Matthew 5:43-48

This is a 5 week study from the Book of Matthew. Content for this discussion guide is based on the sermon, so participation in weekly worship will enhance the conversation on this topic. If you want to watch the sermon it can be viewed at [Sermons Archive - Good Shepherd Church Naperville](#)

Prayer

Open your group in prayer.

Icebreaker (10 min)

What kind of relationship do you have with your neighbors on your street?

Discussion (45 min)

1. Read Matthew 5:43-48 and Leviticus 19:18.
 - a. What did Jesus add to the Leviticus verse? Why do you think he did that?
 - b. Read Matthew 5:10-11. Who are our enemies?
 - c. Read Matthew 5:44, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Ex. 23:4, Prov 25:21. What do these verses teach about responding to our enemies?
2. Read Luke 22:50-51, 23:34, Romans 5:10.
 - a. What did Jesus do for His enemies?
 - b. How are Jesus' commands opposite from the ways of the world?
3. Read Matthew 5:45 and Ephesians 5:1-2
 - a. Why should we love our enemies?
 - b. What relationship in your life would change if you obeyed Jesus' words?
4. Read Matthew 5:48.
 - a. What is your response to Jesus' words in this verse?
 - b. Jesus set this command before us, so how can we recognize our need for God to do what we cannot?
 - c. Read Galatians 5:16, Ephesians 4:22-24, Philippians 2:12-13. How can these verses help you live out the goal in verse 48?

Application question: What will you do differently this week to obey this passage of Scripture?

LORD, You loved with a perfect, sacrificial love! Transform us so we can obey from the heart and racially love our enemies. Let your command of perfection drive us not to hopelessness, but let it drive us to You! Thank you for Your indwelling Spirit that gives us the power to make progress toward the goal of loving our enemies.

