

“Love Our...Enemies?”

(1) Getting Started	(3) Digging Deeper
<p>Prayer Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader: Take prayer requests and spend time as a group in prayer, either at the beginning or end of the meeting. <p>Serving Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders, make sure to check the Small Groups Serving Opportunities HUB for serving opportunities this Spring. • Also, discuss with your group if you would like to serve at a Hot Summer Cool Down this summer and provide an activity. If so, fill out the Google Doc that Pastor Colin sent out last week. 	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans 12:14-21 • 1 Thessalonians 5:15 • 1 Peter 3:8-12 <p>Discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This teaching was obviously something that both Paul and Peter continued to teach. • Why do you think the Church needed to hear this so often? What enemies were they facing? • Why do we still need to hear this today? What enemies are we facing? How does Jesus want us to respond to them?
(2) Read Scripture	(4) Application
<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke 6:27-36 <p>Discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think was most difficult about this teaching for Jesus’ original audience, and why? • What do you think is most difficult about this teaching for Christians today, and why? • What is most difficult about this teaching for you personally, and why? 	<p>Application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastors Dave and Tyler both read a quote from D.A. Carson about the church (Quoted on the back of this page). • Do you think our church reflects this quote? • Would you ever invite an “enemy” to our church? Why or why not? • Why is a community like this so appealing to those who aren’t a part of it? • How can we foster a community like this even more? <p>Memorize: Luke 6:27</p>

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Love In Hard Places

“Ideally, however, the church itself is not made up of natural ‘friends’. It is made up of natural enemies.

What binds us together is not common education, common race, common income levels, common politics, common nationality, common accents, common jobs, or anything of the sort.

Christians come together, not because they form a natural collocation, but because they have been saved by Jesus Christ and owe him a common allegiance.

In the light of this common allegiance, in light of the fact that they have all been loved by Jesus himself, they commit themselves to doing what he says—and he commands them to love one another.

In this light, they are a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus’s sake.”

(D.A. Carson, *Love In Hard Places*, p. 61)