

## LIFE GROUP LESSON September 16 to September 22, 2018

### Blessing Our Enemies

Luke 6:27-28

● **WELCOME God's People (15 minutes)**

● **WORSHIP God (10 minutes – song, reading of Psalms or prayers of thanks/praise).** You can use prayers of thanksgiving or adoration as your time of worship

● **Live by God's WORD (45 minutes)**

As stories of the persecuted church reach us, we learn about Christians who respond to imprisonment, beatings, and harassment with unimaginable grace and dignity. These saints have learned to obey Christ's command to "love your enemies" (Luke 6:27), even in the harshest of circumstances.

We may never face physical persecution for our faith, but we will run across people who hate and mistreat us. The most natural response is to dislike them in return, but harboring ill will and bitterness chokes our witness and poisons our souls. Instead, Jesus instructs us to love our adversaries and treat them well

The Greek word for this kind of love is *agape*—this is not a feeling based on the other person's likability or favor toward us but, rather, an action of the will that does what is best for the other person. It's the type of love God has and, therefore, is not something we can muster within ourselves. But as the Holy Spirit produces His fruit in us, *agape* love will flow through us, even to our enemies.

When someone wrongs or hurts us, it's an opportunity to be a witness for Christ. Rather than harboring animosity or seeking revenge, we are told to pray for our adversary. Instead of begging the Father to defeat our enemy, we can ask Him for the strength to express genuine Christ-like love in the face of opposition. That's the kind of prayer God is delighted to answer. And when we are privileged to meet the need of one who despises us, we might just see an amazing change in his life.

#### **Suggested Questions for Discussion and Growth**

1. How have you demonstrated Luke 6:27-28?
2. What was your biggest obstacle or difficulty in carrying this out?
3. What brought you to the point of demonstrating Luke 6:27-28 and what did you learn from it?

● **Impact God's WORLD (20 min)**

1. Think about ways to grow your group and give birth to a new group.
2. Pray for your lost relatives, co-workers. Ask the Lord to help be a good example.
3. Your group might think about visiting an elderly person or couple.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS – 3 minutes:**

1. Share: ● any planned group activity ● important church announcements ● next meeting time
2. Keep a copy of the church bulletin to help remind the group of important events.

**CLOSING – Please turn in your attendance each week. It helps us evaluate our progress.**