



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

The Big Idea

What sets us apart as believers isn't that we love, but how and who we love.

Message Summary

As we come to the end of the first chapter in the Sermon on the Mount, we find that Jesus has actually saved the hardest statements for the end. After dealing with our anger, our lust, our marriages, and even our tendency to bend the truth, Jesus has the audacity to call us to a love that is more radical than any love that can be found on the earth. In the Kingdom, the fact that we love doesn't make us stand out. What makes us stand out is how we love and who we love.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Have you ever wanted to get revenge? Describe how you handled it? If you took revenge, did it make things better or worse? If you didn't, why didn't you?
- Read Matthew 5:38-48 and Romans 12:17-21. How do these passages inform a Biblical view of revenge and retaliation?
- Read Matthew 5:39-40 and 1 Peter 2:21-23. How do you typically respond to insults or demands on your possessions? How do these passages challenge that?
- Read Matthew 5:44. What kind of prayer would Jesus desire for you to pray for your enemies?
- Read Matthew 5:46-47. Where do you love only those who love you? To whom are you kind? For whom do you pray, share your life with, greet and acknowledge?
- Discuss the following statement: "It isn't enough for Christians to resemble non-Christians in our love; we must surpass them in how we love."
- Are you aware of any "enemies" toward whom you need to begin to act in love?
- How can you "turn the other cheek" toward someone who harasses you or seeks to harm you?