



**Date & Sermon Series:**

September 23/24, 2017; Unfolded

**Speaker: Joel Schmidgall**

**Scripture Focus:** Matthew 5:38-44

**Note to Leaders:**

This weekend we talked about what it means to love our enemies. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow. You can also use these questions on your own to dive deeper into this week's sermon.

**Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What did God reveal to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. What is one element of God's character you learned?

**Specific Questions:**

1. If the dictionary definition of an enemy is: "Someone who is not a friend. Someone who is an opponent, an adversary, or a competitor." Then, who is your enemy?
2. How can you bring moral creativity or identify "a third way" to a situation where someone is treating you less?
3. How can you cover your every response or reaction with prayer so that your reaction is one that is rooted in prayer?
4. Who are you criticizing that you're not praying for?

5. How has "loving our enemies" become more of a platitude than a practice? How can we adjust our actions to better love our enemies?

6. When was the last time you prayed for someone who mistreated or frustrated you? How can you intentionally practice this?

**Diving Deeper:**

**Read Matthew 5**

Follow Up with In-service Reflection Questions

- What is the first step towards forgiveness that I need to take today?
- What does a third way look like within an attempt to love my enemy?
- Where have I fallen short in my treatment of someone else and how should I follow up with them?
- What am I holding onto, and what is holding onto me that I need to let go of today?