



JESUS ON _____

THE SEARCH OF THE HEART

Opening Question:

When you were in elementary school, who was your worst enemy and why?

Read: Matthew 5:38-48; John 3:16; Romans 5:9-11

What is your first response or natural inclination when someone wrongs you?

How does Jesus' instruction in Matthew run counter to what comes naturally?

How does turning the other cheek, loving our enemies, and praying for those who make our lives miserable make us God's children?

The Greek word for love in the phrase "love your enemies" is the same Greek word for love used in John 3:16 (agape). We are called to love our enemies with the same sacrificial love that God showed toward the world when he sent Jesus to save it.

How has Jesus "gone first" in these concepts to show us the way to do the same?



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How has Jesus "gone first" in these concepts to show us the way to do the same?

How might showing this kind of love allow us to join in on the reconciliation God is doing in the world around us? What would the effect be if this became the norm?

How can we practice this principle of loving our "enemies" this election season in particular? What might that look like in practical ways in your life?

Has there ever been someone who was an absolute adversary in your life that you were able to show kindness to in spite of their behavior? What happened?

What can we learn about God from these passages?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to look at more closely?

Without naming names, is there an antagonistic relationship in your life that you need to show Godly love in? How can the group surround you in prayer as you make that shift?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the example that you set for us, that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. Help us to embody that same kind of love toward those who feel like enemies in our lives. May others know we are yours because of our love. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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