

LIVING AS LIGHTS, PART 4

MATTHEW 5:43-48

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 5:43-45a**

I. Love and the Law

II. The Love of the Lord

III. Love in Our Lives

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. Is it better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all? Why?

Into the Bible

2. In light of God's well-known command to love your neighbor in the Old Testament (Leviticus 19:18), why was Christ's parable of the Good Samaritan shocking to his Jewish audience? What was the question that prompted the telling of the parable?

3. What does Matthew 5:45 give as the reason we are to show love to our enemies? How should Romans 5:6-8 make that reason even more important to us?

Application

4. Read 1 John 4:18. Since we are the recipients of God's perfect love, how does that change our relationship with Him? How does this benefit us in our daily lives?

5. Read the description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. These are challenging enough to apply to those who "deserve" it, how do we apply these things to those who hate us? Why should we do this?

For Families

5. Talk to your children about how much God loves us.