

HomeGroup Discussion Guide

May 31-June 6, 2009

Key Idea of the Week:

Our instinct is to attack our enemies and return fire when people oppose us, but Jesus taught a different way and lived it out in His life. He showed us that it was possible to overcome evil with good. How can we really do this in our lives?

Discussion Guide:

Pray for God to soften your hearts and speak to you as you open His Word together.

Read Romans 12:14-18.

Discuss

Why is it so hard to repay evil with good?

Tell about a time in your life when you struggled with loving an enemy?

In this passage Paul advocates ‘blessing those who curse you’ and then warns against ‘pride.’ What do you think is the connection between pride and loving your enemies?

Is there someone in your life right now that you feel anger toward? Are you willing to share sensitively with the group how have you responded to them so far? (try to keep the emphasis on your response, not their actions)

Read Romans 12:19-21.

Discuss

Why is it better to leave vengeance in God’s hands?

What do you think ‘burning coals’ represent in this passage?

Can you give examples from your life of times when you’ve wrongfully harmed someone and had burning coals heaped on your head? Explain what happened.

How should you respond to your enemy if you truly believe that God will avenge?

What can you do this week to bless the one who persecutes you? Are you willing to allow the group to hold you accountable to that?

Pray for courage to act on what you’ve learned this week and for any requests that may have been raised by members of the group.