



Week Five : Love Your Enemies

Matthew 5:43-47 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor⁴³ and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

SECTION A:

- Easy icebreaker- It's fall! What fall things do you look forward to each year? Have you had something pumpkin flavored yet and what was it?

Section B: You will not have time to address all of these questions!!!!!! Have each group member pick one or two. Give everyone a chance to answer #7 beginning with the host.

1. Matthew 5:43-47 says loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us is somehow connected to our being children of God? How do you make sense of this connection?
2. Tell about a time you were the enemy of another person? How did it feel? Were you able to do anything about it? Did you stay enemies?
3. How would someone know they are your enemy?
4. In the video Dave said, "Sometimes Orchard Hill gets accused of over teaching love." He went on to say, You can only over teach love if all you do is talk about it and don't **do** anything about it. How do you respond to his statement?
5. What are some strategies you have used or have seen some else use to move people from the enemy box to the loved by God box? Why do you think it takes so long for this to happen? Why do we have to do it over and over again?
6. Ask the group a question that popped into your mind as you watched the video.
7. **Say something about our discussions over the last 5 weeks. Has something someone said or an idea explored in the series impacted you? Caused you to respond with action?**