

## Family Discipleship Resource

March 17-23

(Matthew 5:43-48)



### **G** – Gather for Prayer

*Father,*

*Thank you for loving me even/especially when I am unlovely. Help me to grow in my love toward others and in showing love direct people to the love of Jesus Christ.*

*In Jesus' Name, Amen*

### **R** – Read the Text (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; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

### **O** – Observe what God has said

***Who is easy to love? Who is difficult to love? Why?***

***Why is it important love those who are unlovely?***

### **W** – Work on Application

If we are honest with ourselves, we know that we cannot hope to love the way God loves without having experienced God's love through Jesus Christ. Truly, we, as the Pharisees, are tempted time and time again to love based on conditions we have placed before us and only when the occasion is in our best interest. When we do this, we behave no differently than the lost and fall far short of drawing attention to God through our lives. Instead, we are to love as God loved. When we love in an other-worldly way in our present fallen world, people of the world marvel and stand in awe and are directed to the God who sent his Son into the world to save.

***What are some ways that we can show love to those who are difficult to love this week?***

***Who do we need to pray for as a family according to this passage?***

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Family Weekly Memory Verse: “We love because He first loved us”-1 John 4:19