

# Lake Merced Church of Christ

Home Groups

Give Yourself Away - To Enemies

## Ice Breaker

Who or what is your favorite hero and villain tandem from history, literature, video games, or movies? As you reflect on those tandems, what do you think makes an enemy an enemy? How is an enemy different than an opponent or a rival?

## Opening Prayer

Ask God to reveal some relationships in your life that may be in need of healing and to give you courage to face those challenges to extend real love.

## Discussion

Read Luke 6:27-36 together out loud as a group. Briefly discuss the words that stood out to you as you read.

1. Jesus begins his sermon in Luke 6 with a command to “Love Your Enemies,” which is probably a phrase you’ve heard mentioned before. Prior to Sunday’s message, how do you think you would have understood those words in your walk as a Christian? What do you think it looks like to love an enemy of yours?
2. The world and Jesus think very differently about enemies. The world says: Love Yourself and Deny your enemies. Jesus says: Deny yourself and Love your enemies. As you reflect on those two statements, how does it make you feel to deal with enemies Jesus’ way?
3. Luke 6:31 reminds us of the Golden Rule, which is an idea that predates the teachings of Jesus, yet Jesus worded his version differently, in the positive. Other versions encouraged people to *not* do things to others that they would *not* want done to them. What is different about the way Jesus words the phrase? And how do you think Jesus’ version changes the way that we are called to love our enemies?
4. This week’s message encouraged you to Remember Your Reflection as you seek to love the enemies in your life. Why is it so important that we try to see ourselves with humility first when trying to learn to love an enemy?
5. Enemies bring out a desire for self-preservation, yet the Bible promises us three things: God rescues us from our enemies (Luke 1:74), God puts our enemies under our feet (Luke 20:43), and God reconciles us as enemies to Him (Romans 5:10). How do you think we can learn to let go of control and love our enemies while trusting God to be our rescuer?

## Closing Prayer

Let each person spend some time sharing honestly about an enemy in your life, someone you may not want to reconcile with, someone you may not want to love. Pray over each person for God to give wisdom and strength to love unlovable people.