Ice Breaker Question:
Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday [services at ZPC at noon and 7 pm]. Is there anything you want to do more of or less of for Lent?

Read and discuss this week's scripture [Matthew 5:38-48].

1. Jesus' instructions here are a high call on his followers. What do you find most challenging from Jesus' instructions in these verses?

2. A pastor once said, “If you want to be a bridge for Christ, get ready to be walked on.” Do you think this is Jesus' intention in this passage and, specifically, in vs. 39? In contrast to this, theologian Dale Bruner suggests “Neither fight nor flight.” Instead, “stay and do something surprising.” What does this look like in our lives – to stay and do something surprising?

3. Jesus says to love your enemies. Some of us might say, “I don't have any real enemies.” If you are one who thinks that, think of the person you want to avoid, who makes you frustrated, who can push your buttons the easiest. Without naming names, describe that person(s) to your group.

4. With the person or persons above, what are ways you can pray for them, show love to them? How can this become real for you this week?

5. Sunday was the Short-term Missions Fair at ZPC. Can you see how going on a short-term mission trip helps you to follow Jesus' call to love those who might be your enemies?

6. Jesus said to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. Being perfect is hard to understand. One scholar says this means to be “perfectly mature.” The Message says to “grow up…live out your God created identity.” What does that look like for you?

Prayer:
Keep the following prayer requests from our church family in mind as you close:
> Prayers of healing for Harry Milli, Phil Carr, Hadley Lehr, and Bryan Dysert.