

Life Steam Life Group Study Guide

September 29, 2024

Series: Love, Actually- Who is my Neighbor?

Open with a time of prayer, invite Jesus to the group.

Getting Started: Observation-What do we see?

1. We saw images of our loyalties today- political parties, sports teams, colleges, etc. How can our lesser loyalties get in the way of us showing love?
2. Read Matthew 5:43-47 as a group. How does Jesus tell us to love our enemies? What analogy does he use to describe why we should love our enemies?
3. Read John 3:16 as a group. How does this describe God's love for the world? How does this passage describe how Jesus would never expect something from us that He would not do first?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

1. Read Luke 6:27-31. Pastor Chris describes an enemy as someone who is openly hostile toward you. He described a neighbor as a small group of like minded individuals with the same religious and political beliefs. Why is Jesus' message of loving your enemy so counter-culture?
2. In His ministry, how did Jesus display spending time with people who were different from him? Can you think of any examples in scripture where he spent time with people that would be portrayed as "his enemy."

Application: How can we live this out?

1. Our loyalty to Christ is our loyalty of love. We do not have control of the behavior, actions, beliefs and attitudes of others, but we have been called to love others no matter what. How did Pastor Chris' hula hoop analogy illustrate this point and how can we start doing this in our own relationships?
2. How does our love for others set us apart from the rest of the world?
3. How can we display this message to love others in our own Life Groups? Why is it important to embrace people of different walks of life in our Life Groups at church?