

# LIFEgroups



## OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

What do you wish that people in general did better?

## DIG

### Read Matthew 5:43-48

*43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor<sup>[1]</sup> 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? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

What does this section of scripture say about God?

What does it say about the ways people tend to differ from God?

How do children of our Father in Heaven act?

## APPLY

How does loving the way God loves affect...

- Marriage?
- Parenting?
- Behavior in the workplace?
- Attitudes about people who are different from us?

In verse 47, Jesus brings it home to those listening to him. What part of your life makes you less like a child of your Father in Heaven and more like people who don't care about him?

What changes will you make in your life that will make you more like Your Father in Heaven?

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## Leaders

### Sermon Series

This discussion guide comes from the current lesson in a series from the Gospel of Matthew. This series focuses on Matthew's message of establishing that Jesus is King over all.

### Big Idea

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus shows what the Kingdom of God is like. He also shows how you can embrace a lifestyle that reflects God's desires for your life.

### Prayer

Engage every person the group in the prayer time. Encourage every person to provide prayer requests, or if appropriate, for every person in the group to pray.

### Group Discussion Reminder

Children are a blessing to any group, even though they can sometimes cause distractions. Every group must find ways to accommodate or include children in different ways, depending on the number and age of the children. Even if the children have a different activity, occasionally invite them to join in for a prayer or a song. Participating with parents in a spiritual group often leaves a positive lifetime impact on children.

