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## INTRODUCTION

## Part 5 - Love Your Enemies

What really matters? What is important? What does it mean to be great? The series The Greatest explores what really matter to Jesus – love – and it will answer questions such as: Why does love matter so much? What does it mean to love? How can we grow in our capacity to love? Together, let's learn what it really means to love well.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had anyone in your life that you considered to be an enemy? What were the circumstances of the animosity? How did you handle the situation?
2. Why do you think people or countries have enemies? Do you think it is possible to have lasting peace in this world?
3. Read Matthew 5:43-48. How do most people treat those they consider to be their enemies? From these verses, what are some of the reasons why Jesus said we are to love our enemies?
4. Read Matthew 5:46 and Matthew 6:1-3. What reward do you think Jesus was talking about in these verses? Do you think we should do things “for the reward?” Why or why not?
5. Read Romans 5:8-10. Do you think most people would admit that, because of our sin, we are enemies of God? How has God treated you, despite the fact that you were an enemy of his? What can we learn from God's example of loving us? What do we learn from his example of loving “the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45).”
6. Have you ever won over an enemy by means of love? How did you do it? What are some practical things we can do to love our enemies? What do you think we should do if others don't love us in return?
7. Generally speaking, how can we grow in our love for others?
8. How might you apply this lesson to your life?

## APPLICATION

### KEY VERSES

Matthew 5:43-48  
Matthew 6:1, 3-4  
Leviticus 19:18  
Proverbs 24:17  
Exodus 23:4-5  
Proverbs 25:21-22