Small Group Conversation Guide | Fall 2022

Small Group Lesson: Week 6
Message: Progress is Perfection: Love & Pray for Your Enemies
Main Idea: Prayer is one of the deepest forms of love because it means you want them to experience God's blessing.
Main Scripture: Matthew 5:38-47

Group Check In: What about Thanksgiving are you most looking forward to?

Prayer

Connect: When someone has hurt or taken advantage of you, what is your first thought?

Video

In the Word:

1. **Matthew 5:38-42**
   - Old Testament Law was designed to limit justice to the parity of the crime, or getting even. Jesus gives 4 scenarios; public humiliation, being sued for your clothes, a Roman soldier demanding assistance, someone aspires to take financial advantage.
   - Enemy or frenemy, how are Jesus followers to respond?

2. **Matthew 5:43-47**
   - Why is reciprocated love not enough?
   - How does God's example in verse 45 help us love others?
   - Why did Jesus command us to pray for our enemies?

Application:

1. Which part of Jesus' command to love is the most difficult for you and why?
2. What does loving and praying for your enemies reveal about your ability to love?
3. Thinking about your Thanksgiving Table, how will you personally apply this teaching?

Prayer: Lord God, thank you for loving us. You healed anyone who came to you, loved those who insulted you, prayed for those who hurt you, and died in the place for all humanity, including those who still reject you. Help us to love others as you love us, in Jesus name, Amen