



SECTION 3

Lesson 3: Love Your Enemies

Unit 2 | Love Thy Neighbor | Grades: 1-5

FIELD MANUAL FOR
QUEST PARENTS

UNIT VERSE: MARK 12:31

“And here is the second one. ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ There is no commandment more important than these.”

SECTION VERSE: MATTHEW 5:16

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”



**Be extreme: Love your enemies.
Jesus did!**

PRAYER

Pray for your enemies.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who is an enemy? Who is your enemy?
- Who is the meanest kid you know? How do you act toward them?
- ★ What has God taught you about loving your neighbor in the world?
- ★ Can you love your enemies on your own? Who's help do you need and why?
- ★ What does it mean to take revenge?



PARENT DEVOTIONAL

**BE EXTREME: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES.
JESUS DID!**

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." - Matt 5:16

"I Went the Extra Mile"

Several years ago I ran in the annual Army 10-Miler in DC. I signed up for 10 miles and I trained for 10 miles. What happened instead was a race diversion, because of a bomb scare, and I, along with 20,000 other runners, ended up going 11.5 miles. When asked to run 10 we ran 11.5 instead. Ok. That's not exactly what Jesus was talking about in His most famous sermon (Matt 5). So what was He getting at? Love your enemies, do good to those who persecute you, if someone forces you to go a mile, go with him two miles. Say what? This is crazy talk, Jesus. That's just not feasible. He clearly hasn't kept up with the latest personal assertiveness seminars. Get ahead by standing up for yourself. That's the American way.

We started out this section looking at how we can love our neighbors in the family, and in the church. Most recently, as we discussed our neighbor in the world, we first looked at the sinner and then the defenseless. So far so good. All these folks we could look upon with either affection or at least compassion. But God couldn't leave things that simple. Jesus, as He repeatedly does throughout His ministry, has to push the idea to its divine extreme. Not only does He say it, "love your enemies and do good to those who persecute you," but He lives it out, or maybe "dies it out" is more appropriate (Romans 5:7-10). Jesus, in taking love to its divine extreme, makes it all the more clear that, in our unregenerate, fallen state, we simply cannot love like God loves. Only through the empowering of the Holy Spirit can we truly embrace this brand of extreme love. Read the following definition of love and meditate on it in light of the cross.

"Agape or divine love is eternal and totally independent of the object of its favor. Agape is an affection which stands in spite of any element of attractiveness, desirability, or even value. It also can be hated by the object of its affection, without damaging its intensity or character."

"So we are not quick to demand justice unmingled with mercy...When we live this way we magnify the glory of God's mercy and the all-satisfying Treasure that He is to our souls. We show that because of His supreme value to us, we do not need the feeling of personal vengeance in order to be content." - John Piper

MEDITATING ON THE WORD

Matt 5:38-48 | Rom 5:7-10
Rom 12:20 | Col 3:13