

Having enemies is inevitable, but choosing to be an enemy is optional.

### Pray for Perspective

- ◇ Open our eyes so that we may see.
- ◇ There is a spiritual world that is just as real, and even more powerful than what takes place in the physical world.
- ◇ Satan is our adversary (1 Peter 5:8)
- ◇ Look at your enemy through a spiritual perspective.

### Take Comfort in God's Protection

- ◇ God knows the plans of the enemy. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.
- ◇ 2 Thess. 3:3 (NIV) "the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."

### Take Courage in God's Power

- ◇ When we can see the invisible, we can do the impossible.
- ◇ The angel didn't fight the battle. The angels gave Elisha the strength to fight this battle.
- ◇ God isn't short on power. Power belongs to God.

### Pray for Your Enemies

- ◇ Our enemies are spiritually blind.

### Love Your Enemies

- ◇ Look beyond the situation to what they really need.
- ◇ How can I be a part of getting them to where God wants them to be?

#### SCRIPTURES

2 Kings 6:8-23 (NIV)	Romans 12:17
1 Peter 5:8	Matthew 5:44
Ephesians 6:12	2 Corinthians 4:4
2 Timothy 2:26	John 9:39
Hebrews 4:13	Proverbs 25:21-22
2 Thess. 3:3	Luke 6:32
Psalms 34:7	Luke 6:27-28
Ephesians 1:18-21	2 Corinthians 10:3-4

#### QUOTES

*"The most glorious victory over an enemy is to turn him into a friend." - Matthew Henry*

## Small Group Questions

### Connection

Do adults value their friendship like children do? Why or why not?

1. Pastor Ben said in his message, "Having an enemy is inevitable, but choosing to be an enemy is optional."
  - a. What are some things one can do to avoid being an enemy?
  - b. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6:27-28.) Discuss why it is hard to follow this directive mentioned above.
  
2. "To escape criticism, do nothing, say nothing and be nothing."
  - a. What is your normal response to criticism?
  - b. How should we respond to criticism?
  
3. Choose one of the Scripture passages from the sermon this week and share your understanding of this truth in light of what you may be experiencing today.

## GO

**Pray for the Lord to open your heart to what He's saying.**

**Pray for yourself and your family.**

**Pray for your church leaders and church family.**

**Pray for our children, the next generation.**

**Pray for your neighbours and community.**

**Pray for our government, local, provincial and federal.**

**Pray for the leaders of the world.**

**Pray for your work family.**

**Pray without ceasing!**



**DIVE DEEPER**

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