



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Loving Our Enemies

Speaker: Jill Smith

Highlighted Scripture

Matthew 5:44–46

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven.

For he makes his sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?

Don’t even the tax collectors do the same?”

1 Corinthians 13:4–5

“Love is patient and kind;

love doesn’t envy, doesn’t brag, isn’t proud,

doesn’t behave itself inappropriately, doesn’t seek its own way,

is not provoked, and takes no account of evil.”

Discussion Questions

- 1. Jesus calls us to love and pray for our enemies. Why is this one of the most challenging teachings to live out?**
- 2. Jill talks about separating the person from the sin. How does this help us love others without compromising truth?**

- 3. What is the difference between righteous anger and sinful anger, based on this devotional?**
- 4. Why is prayer such an important response when we feel frustrated, offended, or angry toward others?**
- 5. How does loving our enemies set us apart as followers of Jesus?**

Reflection Challenge

As you prepare your heart during this season, take time to reflect:

Are there people I struggle to love or speak kindly about?

Do my words reflect love, or do they reflect frustration and judgment?

Am I willing to pray for those who oppose God or oppose me?

Remember:

✨ **Loving enemies reflects God's heart**

✨ **Prayer shifts the battle to the spiritual realm**

✨ **The Holy Spirit empowers what we cannot do in our flesh**

Prayer

Father God,

Thank You for loving me when I was far from You.

Forgive me for the times I have spoken or acted without love.

Teach me to love my enemies the way You have loved me.

Help me separate people from the sin and respond with compassion and truth.

Strengthen me through Your Spirit to pray, to forgive, and to walk in obedience.

Use my life to reflect Your love in a dark world.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

