

# Community Group Discussion Guide

## Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

**Note:** Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

### **Series Title:** Source Code

**Description:** During a grueling, snow-covered hike with his friends, 13 year-old Bill Gates imagined a simple, *source code* for the one computer that was currently on loan to his middle school. The simplicity of the code allowed him to remember it for years until he was finally able to implement it, and the power of the code ended up creating a multi-billion dollar company known as Microsoft.

In this series, Source Code, we are studying Jesus' most famous collection of teachings found in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. The Sermon on the Mount, in its own simplicity and power has shaped the life of every follower of Jesus for the last 2,000 years. Let's take a closer look and see what Jesus taught.

## Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

**Note:** Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

**Message Title:** Loving Our Enemies

**Main Text:** Matthew 5:33-48

**Supporting Texts:** Mark 7

### **Message Outline:**

In an earlier message we looked at how we are called to be peacemakers. In Week 5 of this series, we Jesus some

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specific application of this call as Jesus addresses oaths, retaliation, and loving our enemies.

**Key: Conflict in relationships are unavoidable. We desperately need Jesus' example and wisdom on how to handle it.**

*Read Matthew 5:33-48 aloud in your group*

Oaths—

Peacemaking begins with a commitment to *honesty* and *integrity*. Jesus instructs people that they need not make big promises or swear by the temple or God himself, but rather let their yes be yes and their no be no. In other words, as followers of Christ our word should mean something.

Retaliation—

As followers of Jesus we do not “get even”. We value peace more than revenge. *Peacemakers expose injustice through costly generosity.*

Love for enemies—

The people of Israel had long been justifying the hatred of their enemies. Jesus not only dismantles that idea, but takes it one more step and calls his followers to LOVE (not put up with, not ignore, not avoid) and PRAY for their enemies. This is a radical teaching from Jesus, one that we must sit with honestly.

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### Step 03: Lead group discussion.

**Note:** Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

#### Specific to this week's message:

1. How comfortable are you with conflict? Do you seek it out? Avoid it? How does your relationship with Jesus affect your handling of conflict?
2. How does Jesus' challenge of letting your yes be yes land with you? Have you ever seen this as a value tied to integrity, honesty, or peace making?
3. Think of a time recently that you felt hurt—specifically at the hands or words of someone else. Did you want to “get even”? What did you do with that impulse?
4. How as followers of Jesus can we start to turn the other cheek? Name some situations that you could implement this.
5. *Re-read Matthew 5:43-47. Then Read Romans 5:8.* Look at how often Jesus uses the word **love**. Is it possible that we have lessened this command from Jesus, to “tolerate” or “ignore” or “disregard” our enemies? Does the way we love our enemies match how God demonstrated his love for us?
6. What would it look like for you to *love your enemies* and pray for those who *persecute* you (again notice the severity of the language)?

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### **General questions:**

7. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
8. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
9. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
10. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?