

Weekly Discussion Guide – 05-24-26

“The Model Christian”

Text: Matthew 5:43-48

1. When you hear the phrase “model Christian,” what is the first thing that comes to mind, and why? Does this sermon challenge your idea of a model Christian in any way?
2. Without gossiping or slandering (you may want to avoid using names or descriptions of an individual), who or what type of people are your “enemies,” those that oppose you or are hostile to you?
3. Which of the four practices for how to rely on the Holy Spirit to love our enemies feels most difficult for you: prayer, curiosity, forgiveness, or relationship? Why?
4. What changes when you begin to pray for a person who is your enemy?
5. How does curiosity help replace defensiveness, fear, or contempt of our enemies?
6. Is there someone you need to forgive or seek forgiveness from in order to love more like Jesus? What would a next step look like?
7. How can staying in relationship with people you disagree with help prevent stereotyping or dehumanizing them?
8. What is one concrete step you can take this week to love your enemies?