

Week 3

BREAK THE ICE

Were you ever bullied when you were in school? Have two people tell about their experience. What made you a target?

Maybe you were the bully...tell us about what made you act that way. When and why did you stop thinking that way?

BREAK GROUND

Who is your enemy? Is it based on an action, a position, a characteristic, a personality? Describe a situation where you classified someone as an enemy.

Jesus did not say to "Tolerate" your enemy; but to "Love" them. Go the extra mile, give them your coat AND your shirt, offer the other cheek to be slapped. Why isn't it enough for us to just not be angry? Why are we commanded to react with an offering of love? Do you think this has anything to do with our "rights"?

DIG DEEPER

Discuss the difference between reacting to an offense (like a tennis ball against a brick wall) and responding to an offense (applying the teaching of the Word). What is your natural tendency? Do you see growth in this area of your life? Why or why not?

Do you have trouble keeping your temper? Why or why not? Who is responsible for controlling how you respond to offense?

Do you secretly feel good when people that offend you go through difficulties? Is this an example of being vengeful? Why is it hard to trust God in this?

When we're obedient to God's Word, we don't have to worry about revenge or justice. God promises that He will protect His children.

Name a few ways you'll begin to apply this teaching to your life. (Your marriage, your boss, your daily interactions)

PRAY

WEEKLY READING

Thursday, February 25th
Matthew 5:1-37; Leviticus 24:10-23

Friday, February 26th Matthew 5:38-48; Deuteronomy 19:14-21

Saturday, February 27th Luke 6:27-36; Exodus 21:12-25

Sunday, February 28th Luke 6:37-49; Psalm 37:27-29

Monday, March 1st 1 Peter 2:1-25; Psalm 45:1-7

Tuesday, March 2nd 1 Peter 3:1-22: Psalm 75:1-3

Wednesday, March 3rd Romans 12:1-21; Proverbs 21:14-16