



# STUDY GUIDE

## AGAINST THE GRAIN 10.06.2019

### [start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:  
Care on the Square

### [set up]

Share about a time when you had an enemy in your life. If the term “enemy” doesn’t apply, consider someone who was constantly adversarial with you or who you couldn’t stand being around. What ever happened to that person or that situation?

### [digging deeper]

Today, we encounter one of the most difficult teachings from Jesus.  
Open to Luke 6:27-36 and read it together.

Share your immediate thoughts or gut reaction.

Is the command from Jesus to “love our enemy” even humanly possible?

Can you think of a few examples of when you have seen this lived out well?

Jesus gives us three practical ways we can love our enemy, what are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Look at King David’s response to his enemies in Psalm 69:22-28 (one of several Psalms of this tone).

Look at the Apostle Paul’s reaction to being struck in Acts 23:1-3.

How is it encouraging to see how even godly men in Scripture struggled with the reality of living this out?

How would you apply this teaching to the following topics:

- Abusive relationships?
- Self Defense?
- Military and war?
- Passivity?

(You can form smaller groups for each topic and give them 5-10 minutes to come up with a small presentation on the topics.)

How do the following verses elaborate on God's heart on this topic?

Luke 6:22

Luke 23:34

Acts 7:52-60

Romans 5:8-10

Romans 12:14-21

1 Peter 3:9

Why is Luke 6:35-36 a great motivator to live out this teaching of Christ and what is/are our great reward(s) in doing so?

### **[living it out]**

Group up in groups of 2-3 people (men with men, women with women preferably)

Share with each other who has come to mind during this study (if needed, refrain from using names if it is a mutually known person).

Share one action step you will take (or your plan to follow through with the three action steps listed earlier from Luke 6:27-28).

Plan a time to circle back around and check on how it is going with living this out.

Pray for each other to live this out.