

## **BBC SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE** △▽◀▶

### **Sermon on the Mount: Go the Extra Mile 5:38-48**

**How to use this guide:** This fall we invite you to join our church family in digging deeper into the Scripture(s) preached each Sunday. We believe life change happens best in the context of small community where you can engage God's Word while inviting people into your life to encourage you to continue growing in Christ-likeness.

**Background:** For centuries leading up to the coming of Jesus, the Jewish idea of equal retaliation was prevalent in the culture and people viewed the Old Testament law as a divine sanction to ensure justice was served. But Jesus flips this understanding on its head and reveals that those who would be citizens of His kingdom would not only refuse vengeance, but they would actively seek to be generous to the very people who demanded things from them.

#### **Getting Started: Personal Study**

1. Read Matthew 5:38-48.
2. How does viewing Exodus 21:24 as "permissible" versus "limiting" change the meaning?
3. What consequences might happen when this principle is taken from the courts (where it belonged) to the realm of personal relationships (where it did not belong)?
4. What is accomplished in a relationship where you go the extra mile or turn the other cheek?
5. What situations can you see in your own life where Jesus' commands can be applied?
6. According to Jesus, how are we to treat our enemies and why (v. 44-45)?
7. Does this mean that Christians are to be doormats for the world to walk all over?
8. How did Christ model the principle not to resist an evil person and to love His enemies?
9. How can God's character be reflected in your life when you are mistreated?

#### **Digging Deeper: Scripture Connections**

1. Read and interact with the following passages:  
*Exodus 21:4, 26-27      Leviticus 19:18      Deuteronomy 19:15-21      1 Samuel 25:33; 26:10-11*
2. How can these texts be misapplied if you are not careful to examine the entirety of God's Word?
3. God's people both in the OT and NT have enemies. God knew that if the Israelites did not eliminate the people of Canaan from the land that they would not be able to remain committed to Him. Interact with Leviticus 18:1-5, 24-28. What is God warning His people about?
4. When it came to personal enemies the OT had equally strong words, but this time they showed mercy. Read and compare / contrast Exodus 23:4-5 and Deuteronomy 22:1-4.
5. What does Proverbs 25:21-22 say about our ministry to those opposed to us?
6. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and identify how the Messiah would embody the mercy expressed in God's laws.

#### **Getting Together: Group Study & Discussion**

1. Read Matthew 5:38-48.
2. When have you found it difficult to forgive another person?
3. How does loving and praying for our enemies display our relationship as children of God?
4. What do you find most difficult about these verses?
5. When has someone turned the other cheek, handed over the coat or gone the extra mile for you? How did it impact your relationship with them?
6. Is the Holy Spirit urging you to go the extra mile for someone else now?
7. How can Christians do "more than others" in light of verses 46-47?
8. Can your group put an idea from the previous question into practice this week?
9. Pray that your lives will increasingly reflect your relationship with your Father in heaven.