

Q U E S T I O N S A B O U T

Enemies

1. Is there anyone in your life that you would consider AN ENEMY? Yes – No

If you marked “yes”, explain what makes this person your enemy. _____

2. How do you treat your enemies? Choose your top three.

Send them a birthday card

Gossip about them to friends

Find ways to even the score

Smile at them

Try to turn their friends against them

Pretend they don't exist

Find ways to help them

Say insulting things about them

Pray for them

Just ignore them

3. What guidance does the Bible give us to help us deal with our enemies? Read each verse and write down some things you learn.

Matthew 5:43-48 _____

Matthew 18:15-17 _____

Romans 12:14-21 _____

II Timothy 2:23-26 _____

4. We have seen what God expects when it comes to the way we treat our enemies. So...how are you doing with this? Rate yourself on the scale below.

Total Failure Complete Success

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5. We know that we ought to treat our enemies better, but sometimes we just don't do it. Why is that?

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Instructions:

Take each question one by one and have the students write down their answer, then discuss the question with the entire group.

Observations:

1. This first question is designed to get the students discussing the problem. Be careful to avoid calling any names of enemies. The main thing is to draw out what others do that would cause your students to consider them an enemy (stole a boy/girlfriend, gossiped about me, resents me for my success, etc.).
2. Have some fun with this question, but insist that your students be honest. You will probably find that your students seek the middle ground. They don't mistreat their enemies, but nor are they kind to them. Most will probably be indifferent (i.e. pretend they don't exist, ignore them).
3. This is the heart of your study. Focus your students on the expectations God has of us about the way we deal with our enemies. Here are some points to draw from these passages:
 - We don't get even or seek revenge - - ever, in any way!
 - We should work diligently to resolve a problem by going to the person privately.
 - We should pray for our enemies.
 - We should look for ways to show them kindness.
 - Even when facing opposition in the church, Paul told Timothy to be gentle, kind and patient.
4. Have an honest discussion with your group about how well they are implementing these principles. Most will probably admit that they are not doing well.
5. This may be the most important question of the study. I suspect most know that they ought to be treating their enemies better than they do. The problem is that they just don't want to. This cuts against the grain of how people in our culture behave. Challenge your students to step it up, to be willing to be different, to do what God expects in all aspects of life – including the way we interact with our enemies.