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# NEIGHBORS - WEEK # 5

## Week # 5: Special Focus: Loving Our Enemies



What does it mean to be a neighbor? How can I develop relationships, share faith in Christ, and serve others better? During this Renovation Series, we'll be exploring these questions and also utilizing materials from Bill Hybel's Book, "Just Walk Across the Room." We encourage you to purchase a copy for your own spiritual growth.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tonight we'll take time to reflect on a special focus for this teaching series: loving our enemies. Take time as a group to discuss the enemies in your life. Why specifically are these enemies?

2. **Read Psalm 138.**

Psalm 138 is typically called a "psalm of thanksgiving." Why might this be the case?

The setting of this psalm is located in the temple. The psalmist sings of God's power and presence and remembers all of God's faithfulness throughout his life. How do you bring your praise, thanksgiving, and needs to God in the midst of Sunday worship?

3. There are three sections to this psalm - verses 1-3, verses 4-6, and verses 7-8. Take a moment as a group to discuss the different ways in which God is faithful to people as they face their struggles and enemies in life.

In each of the three sections, there is also a human response toward God. What are the responses to God in each of the sections?

4. **Re-read Psalm 138:7-8.** Notice the end of the psalm recounts the faithfulness of God to deliver us from our enemies in the past, and also the need to be delivered from our current enemies. How have you engaged God in worship and prayer for help and deliverance from your enemies?

The psalmist does not pray for God to bring harm to his enemies. He simply asks to be delivered. How might this be an example of loving your enemies and praying for those who abuse you?

As a group, spend time in prayer for your enemies. Pray to be delivered from your enemies, for God's help to forgive your enemies, and also for God's transforming grace to be granted to your enemies. As you work on this last part, be patient and considerate of group member's feelings.

### **BE THE REVOLUTION**

Loving our enemies is difficult. We can only do this by the grace of God.

### **RENOVATING THE HEART**

*"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life" (Psalm 138:7).*