

Encountering Jesus

Luke 6:27-36

Welcome to this gathering of Encountering Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. This group engagement is designed to provide a process of getting to know both one another...and Christ together. As noted through these weeks, the Scriptures are a "living Word" or testimony...centered around the living Christ...so when we encounter Jesus through the Scriptures, we encounter not only what "was" ...but what "is."

Getting to know one another...

What is your favorite meal to cook?

Centering...

Take a quiet moment to center your soul on God. Take a minute for all those participating to close their eyes... take a deep breath...and prayerfully listen as one member reads the following Scripture... slowly ...three times...after which they may lead in an opening prayer for the group time.

Isaiah 60:1-2 (NIV) – “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.”

Exploring...

Read Luke 6:27-36 (Could have read aloud, by one or two individuals)

Luke 6:27-36 (NIV)

²⁷ “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

1. How should the followers of Jesus behave towards their enemies?
2. Read Leviticus 19:18. How does what Jesus said expand or change this?
3. In what ways does your enemy make it hard for you to love them?
4. How can we tell when our love is fostering the other person's irresponsibility? Is it possible to "love too much"?
5. How can you show God's love to a person who is not open to receiving it?
6. From this passage, does love seem like an emotion? Why? What's the significance of this?

7. What does this passage say about how we are meant to reflect the nature of God?

8. What does it look like to apply this passage to reality?

* This question is best considered OPTIONAL. It may be best to skip if the group is large or short on time, perhaps having had extensive discussion on a previous question.