



“A Different Standard”
Small Group Questions
Week of May 17, 2026

Icebreaker:

Share the best prank you have ever done to someone else or the best prank that has been done to you.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 5:38-42: Jesus gives four illustrations of what it might look like to “not resist an evil person.” Discuss the meaning of each example and then share which of them feels most difficult for you personally, and why?
2. What is the difference between refusing revenge and allowing abuse? How can Christians practice healthy boundaries while still living out these teachings?
3. Read Matthew 5:43-48: How is Jesus challenging the teaching of the religious leaders during his time? How does His teaching challenge natural human instincts?
4. In verse 45, Jesus points out that God “causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good.” What does this teach us about God’s character and how He treats people? How should this impact the way we treat people?
5. Jesus says loving only those who love us is no different from what “tax collectors” and pagans do. What should make Christian love distinct from ordinary human kindness?
6. How does praying for someone who hurt you affect your own heart over time?
7. Verse 48 says, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” What do you think Jesus means by “perfect” in this context? How does it affect the way we pursue living righteously?
8. What is one practical way you could apply this passage this week—in your family, workplace, friendships, online interactions, or toward someone difficult in your life?