



Look at the Book

Responsive Reading of Matthew 5:38-44 (NIV)

Partner 1: You have heard that it was said, “Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.”

Partner 2: But I tell you, do not resist an evil person.

Partner 1: If anyone slaps you on the right cheek,

Partner 2: turn to them the other cheek also.

Partner 1: And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt,

Partner 2: hand over your coat as well.

Partner 1: If anyone forces you to go one mile,

Partner 2: go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Partner 1: You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”

Partner 2: But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Probing

Choose several of the following prompts to discuss.

1. Talk about a time someone was aggressive with you. What happened? (How did you feel like reacting? How long did your anger last? What physical sensations did you feel?)
2. Jesus says not to resist an evil person. Why in the world would he say this? What do you think about what Jesus said?
3. Jesus uses lots of positive verbs in this passage: **turn** the other cheek, **hand** over your coat, **go** two miles, **give** to the one who asks, **love** your enemy, and **pray** for your enemy. What would happen if people actually did this?