



## Connect Group Discussion Guide

“Weird” is defined as *uncanny, mysteriously strange, supernatural, odd, or bizarre*; and “normal” is defined as *typical, expected*. *Many of the teachings of Jesus are considered weird because they are not normal actions or reactions our world.*

1. Jesus’ teachings aren’t weird because they are strange, they are weird because they make complete sense. However, they are not natural to us; they require God’s supernatural activity in our lives. Do you agree with this? What is the reason you do/not agree?
2. You know what normal is? Love those who love you. You want to know what weird is? Love your enemies. Read the Luke verses. What are these verses saying to you in your own words?
3. Verses 26-27 are challenging to us and verses 28-29 seem almost impossible by our standards. However, in these verses, Jesus is exhorting us to think of the needs of others, not simply their actions. Is this hard or easy for you to do? Explain your answer.
4. What emotions come to you when you read verse 30? What is the reason you think you feel this way? Take a moment to reflect on those emotions and ask yourself, “Why did that emotion come up for me when I read this verse?”
5. Verse 31 says, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” This is the “Golden Rule”. We can all agree with this, but do you do this all the time? If we agree to the truth of this, what are some reasons you think we don’t consistently live by this?
6. Verses 31-34 are like Jesus knowing what we may have been thinking. How do you respond to these verses?
7. Verse 35 is challenging us with the idea that in a world where violence and self-interest is the norm; be different. How can you practice being different based on this verse?
8. Read the Galatians verse. It means we have laid down our natural, superficial, worldly-formed self on the cross next to Jesus and become more like Him. Is this true for you or not? In what ways yes or no?
9. Read the Ephesians verse. Deceitful desires doesn’t mean we have a desire to lie to others, it means that our desires “lie to us”. Further, we learn that to stop futile thinking (pointless thinking that doesn’t promote Christ), stop being hard (soften our heart to others), stop greed (redefine our relationship with stuff), stop grieving the Holy Spirit (fighting against God in you), stop bitterness and rage (forgive to get rid of the poison in your system). What do these mean to you?

Series: Weird...Because Normal Isn’t Working

“Loving Our Enemies”

Week of May 16, 2021

### Main Idea

***Jesus’ teachings aren’t weird because they are strange, they are weird because they make complete sense. However, they are not natural to us; they require God’s supernatural activity in our lives.***

### Key Scripture Reference(s)

***Read aloud:***

***Luke 6:27-36***

***Romans 12:21***

***Galatians 2:20***

***Ephesians 4:22***

### Your Faith in Action

What steps will you take this week to **show** others what you believe (in words, and in deeds)?

**Mon:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tue:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thu:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fri:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sat:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sun:** \_\_\_\_\_

*This is a constant element, so you can practically live out your faith everyday.*