

Love Your Enemies

Arguably the greatest challenge in the Christian call to peacemaking is Jesus' command that we must love our enemies. This activity is a quiet and reflective exercise to encourage young people to think about the challenge of living this command.

Print copies of the *Love Your Enemies stories*:

www.paxchristi.org.uk/elements

Prepare

You will also need post-it notes and pens.

Display the stories around the room or, if possible, at various points on one wall with the phrase 'Love your Enemies' displayed centrally on that wall.

You might start by having Matthew 5: 43-48 read aloud.

When Jesus urges us to love our enemies, what exactly does that mean? On the wall there are a number of stories about people trying, failing, struggling and succeeding in loving their enemies.

Reflect

For the next 15 minutes invite the group to spend time reading the stories, reflecting on the demands of loving one's enemies and adding their own thoughts using the post-it notes provided.

This activity can take place in a 10 - 15 minute slot or can be ongoing for some time, allowing young people to dip in and out of it as they wish.

At the conclusion of the exercise you might invite the young people to share their thoughts and feelings with the whole group.

