

Living the Abundant Life

By Overcoming Obstacles

There's an old adage that reminds us to "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer." Success in life often means that you have to figure out how to deal with your enemies effectively. When Jesus said, "Love your enemies" he was making a presumption that we would have enemies ... people who don't like us and who actively work against us to thwart our personal success. In this Conversation, we'll explore how to effectively deal with those obstacles who are getting in the way of your abundant life.

Titus 3:1–2, 9–11

1. Jesus presumed we would all have _____.
2. Inasmuch as possible, don't set out to _____
_____.
3. Four biblical approaches to dealing with enemies:
 - A. _____ them. Some will become _____
_____.
 - B. _____ them. Some will become
_____.
 - C. _____ them. Some will become
_____.
 - D. _____ them. Some will _____
_____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll be proactive
- Identify your enemies
- Begin praying for your enemies
- Determine the best course for dealing with your enemies

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Monday

Read: Exodus 23

1. How many festivals were the Israelites required to attend each year?
2. What were God's requirements for his continued protection? (22)

Reflect: Why did God want the Israelites to drive all of the inhabitants out of the Promised Land? (27–33) How do you protect yourself from the influence of others?

Tuesday

Read: Exodus 24

1. What was the Israelites' response to the law? (3)
2. Where else do you hear words similar to the ones Moses speaks in verse 8?

Reflect: What do you think it would be like to spend time alone in the presence of God like Moses did?

Wednesday

Read: Exodus 25

1. How did God expect the Israelites to finance the construction of the tabernacle?
2. Why do you think the tabernacle décor was so ornate?

Reflect: What do you do to maintain a sense of the holy when you go to worship and pray?

Thursday

Read: Exodus 26

1. What were some of the decorations in the woven curtains?
2. What materials for creating the tabernacle are mentioned here?

Reflect: Why do you think God gave such specific directions to Moses for the construction of the Tabernacle?

Friday

Read: Exodus 27

1. Why do you think the altar was made out of wood, rather than stone?
2. What hours were the lamps to be kept burning?

Reflect: The interplay of light and dark is a recurring theme in the book of Exodus. What do you do to keep the darkness of life at bay?

Saturday: Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?