

STUDY GUIDE: **I Don't Like You**

Discussion Starters

1. Is it OK for a Christian to “not like” someone?

2. Is it Ok for a Christian to “hate” someone? Is there a difference?

3. To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASB, but the word you are trying to define is the Hebrew word translated by the NASB—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

Define the following words or terms.

--“love” (1 John 4:20)—

--“hates” (1 John 4:20)—

--“forgive” (Matthew 18:21)—

--“angry” (Matthew 5:22)—

--“patience” (Matthew 18:29)—

4. Choose one of the words you looked up above, and write how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage.

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5. Why is it important for the Christian to practice forgiveness?

6. Why is it important for the Christian to practice unconditional love?

7. What does the gospel say about loving one's enemies? (use scripture)

8. How does forgiveness model the gospel to unbelievers? (use scripture to illustrate)

Taking It Home

1. Think about all the things for which Jesus has forgiven you. Can you truly hold a grudge against anyone?

2. Is there un-forgiveness in your heart that you must bring up to a small group or another Christian so they can pray for you?

3. Search your heart, do you have any enemies that you need to pray for right now?