

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

CANCELED

You hear a lot about “cancel culture” these days. It's what happens when swarms of people on the internet band together to call out, shame, or even “cancel” someone. And while there are definitely times when people or systems need to be called out and held accountable, we can all be a little too quick to be cruel to each other — online and offline too. In this 4-week series, we'll get introduced to a few people from Scripture whose stories show us that humans have always struggled to choose love instead of hate. This problem isn't a new one, but through the stories of Jesus, a few outcasts, a king, and a shepherd, we'll see that God is challenging us to love people **who aren't like us**, love people **who are in need**, love the people **we envy**, and love the people **we want to hate**.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Love the people you want to hate.

THE BIBLE

I Samuel 24:1-7; Matthew 5:38-45;
Romans 12:17-21

- Who's one famous person you love to hate? Why don't you like them?
- Why do you think people sometimes love to hate each other?
- Do you think there is ever a legitimate reason to hate someone? Why or why not?
- Think about a fight you got into recently. What caused it? What did you do or say to keep the fight going instead of resolving it?
- None of us are currently being chased by a jealous king, but who might some of our "enemies" be?
- David and Saul eventually decided to never see each other again. When do you think that's the wise thing to do with our "enemies" and when is it not?
- When someone hurts you, do you think it's possible to forgive them and hold them accountable for their actions at the same time? Give an example.
- Before today, what did you think the phrase "turn the other cheek" meant? How would you define it now?
- Think about someone you're tempted to hate while we read Romans 12:17-21. What stands out to you in this passage and why?
- Have you thought of someone you're tempted to hate? This week, what's one way you can show them love instead of hate or revenge?

NOTE!

As a result of this conversation, students may have questions or experiences related to abuse that they want to share. To let students know you are safe and available, ask a question like, "**What would you do if someone (especially an adult) was harming someone you know? What if they were harming you?**" Direct students to share any dangerous or abusive situations with you (or another adult they trust), and then immediately report this information give to you to your church leadership and follow any mandated reporter laws in your area.