

HARD TO SWALLOW

THINGS WE WISH JESUS DIDN'T SAY

“HATERS” DISCUSSION GUIDE August 13, 2017

1. Have you ever had someone say something difficult to you that you ended up appreciating later? Have you ever said something difficult to someone that they did or didn't appreciate at the time?

2. What are some passages in the Bible or teachings of Jesus that you've found really “hard to swallow”?

**TOOLS FOR TOUGH PASSAGES:
Clear Passages - Context - Closure**

How have you handled these passages? Do you have closure? Are you still wrestling with them?

*Group Leaders: Please write these down and email them to Lou@3vc.org.

3. In which aspect or role of your life do you most strongly find your identity? (i.e. husband, salesman, mother, student, Jesus follower, etc.) In Luke 14:26, Jesus explains the importance of finding our identity first as his disciples. Why do you think that is? Why do we often struggle with this?
4. Hate, as used in Scripture, often indicates the *order* of loves, not the *opposite* of love, as we use it today. Jesus explains that we must love him first and most. When you think of Jesus, what emotions immediately come to mind: love, guilt, responsibility, tradition, obligation?
5. Amazingly, when it comes to our relationship with God, we do not initiate love, we respond to it. How do the parables in Luke 15 relate to this passage in Luke 14?
6. The word for “cannot” indicates *power* not *permission*. In other words, Jesus is saying that without this kind of loyalty, we *will not* be able to effectively follow him, not that we *may not*. Unpack the implications of this.
7. Before embarking on the greatest endeavor of his life, Peter was questioned by Jesus three times, each time with the same question: Do you love me? Take that question home with you tonight. How would you answer?

Jesus does not motivate us with ultimatums, he pursues us with love.