

This Little Bite of Mine

This discussion starter helps your group talk about love. Read the story below to your group:

I heard a story about a man who was bitten by a dog. When the health officer tested the dog, sure enough, it was rabid. As soon as the victim heard this, he grabbed a pad of paper and a pen and began writing as fast as he could.

"Hey, we can give you a serum, you know. You don't have to write out your will," said the health officer.

"Oh, I'm not writing my will," cried the bitten man. "I'm making a list of all the people I want to bite."

After reading the story, give your young people these instructions:

1. Put yourself in the man's place. Pretend that you have been bitten by a

rabid dog, and make a list of five people you want to bite. Include a one- or two-word note by each name to remind you why you want to bite them. Leave an inch or so of space below each name.

2. Now turn this around. Pretend that you are afflicted by the infectious disease of love. List five people you would like to bite now. Make a note to remind you why and leave an inch below each name.

3. Now discuss what happened. Are any of the people on both lists? Why? Can you feel hate for someone and still love them? Is it possible to consciously love someone? In other words, if you calculate loving someone, is that love? If you have to tell someone you love them, do you really love them?