

## **Handling Difficult Personalities**

Your perception of individuals often becomes the way the group perceives its members. However, some personalities can provide greater challenge based on your own personality and experience. This exercise can help you to work through your feelings toward some different types of people.

1. From the list below choose three types of people who aggravate you the most. Feel free to define the types in your own terms:
    - a male or female chauvinist
    - a self-assured person
    - a genuinely spiritual person
    - an expert
    - a person at peace
    - a person who is always happy
    - an obvious hypocrite
    - a complainer
    - a quiet person with a servant heart
    - a racial bigot
    - a selfish snob
    - a self-taught theologian
    - other:
  2. Answer these questions for each type of person you chose:
    - What makes you dislike this type of person so much?
    - In what ways are you like and not like this person?
  3. Imagine your small group is made up of you plus each of the personality types that you marked. List five things that you can do to work through your struggles with these personality types and encourage their growth in discipleship.
- (Taken from :The Big Book on Small Groups by Jeffrey Arnold (2004))