



Small Group Work Sheet

John 15:18-16:4 - Persecution

June 30, 2013

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

1. Do you have any stories of persecution from your own life? From someone you know?

Part 2 - Sermon Review

2. Read John 15:18-16:4. Talk of persecution in the church can bring up many different responses. When persecution is discussed, what types of emotions are brought up? How do you think God intends us to respond to stories of persecution?
3. Read John 15:18-19; James 4:4. In the United States, what does it look like for the world to 'hate' Christians? Do you believe that the choice is as black and white as described by Jesus and James here—that we must choose hatred by the world or enmity with God?
4. Read John 15:20-21. Persecution comes from ignorance of who Jesus is (v. 21). How does this knowledge help us to love our enemies, even in the midst of persecution? How does it help us pray for them?

5. Read John 15:22-25; Psalm 35:19; 64:1-4; Matt. 5:10-11. Should the persecution and suffering that we face during our lives surprise us? Why or why not?

6. Read John 15:26-27; cf. John 5:30-47. In this passage, Jesus mentions three things that bear witness to him: his works (vv. 24-25), the Holy Spirit (v. 26), and his disciples (v. 27). How does the Spirit bear witness to Jesus? How do we bear witness to Jesus? Why does this witness often result in persecution?

7. Read John 16:1-4. Jesus tells of us coming persecution before experiencing it so that we might endure. How does this knowledge prepare us to endure? How is this knowledge an encouragement in the midst of suffering?

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