

Dear Life Group Leaders,

Throughout John's Gospel Jesus mostly emphasises the wonderful relationship we can have with Him and Father God through Holy Spirit, but in this passage He looks at the cost of choosing Him. These are sobering verses, so do leave plenty of space to help your Life Group process them, and for prayer at the end, inviting the Holy Spirit to strengthen and equip us.

God bless,

Roger

(This week's Life Group Guide was prepared by Roger Newberry, who leads a Life Group in our Wimbledon venue)

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 15:18-16:15

This week's BIG IDEA: We will experience opposition and rejection because we love and follow Jesus.

1. What is the context of this portion of Jesus' teaching to His disciples?

[Leaders note: Jesus teaches on how they go on as His followers after He leaves. Specifically He is the vine, feed off Him, live out his love for others, they are chosen by him to be fruitful.]

Please read John 15v18-25 - The world's reaction to Jesus and His followers.

2. Why is the world so opposed to Jesus?

[Leaders note: See also John 3:20, John 7:7 & 9:39-41. Pride makes it difficult to submit to His claims, this is one of satan's tactics (2 Cor 4:4).]

3. v20-21, what warning are we given in our relationship with the world?

[Leaders note: That if we follow Jesus we will also face persecution, just like He did.]

4. v22-24, how do we make sense of Jesus' teaching in these verses that "they would not be guilty of sin"?

[Leaders note: Jesus cannot mean that they wouldn't be guilty of any sin, but that they are now guilty of the specific sin of rejecting the supreme revelation of God that came in Christ himself.]

5. What does it take to be witnesses in a hostile world? For example, have you, or someone you know, felt the pressure to be silent about our faith in Jesus as the only way of salvation, or about God creating us male and female?

[Leaders note: We need to count the cost, we need to openly display our love and loyalty for Jesus, we need to humbly show others kindness & love.]

6. Do you think we downplay the battle that we face as Christians? If so, what do you think are the consequences of teaching that discipleship is only ever positive or easy?

Please read John 15v26-16:4 - Jesus provides help to enable us to show Jesus to the world

7. How does Holy Spirit help us to stay strong under pressure of opposition?

8. v26-27, what do we learn about Holy Spirit from what Jesus says?

[Leaders note: Jesus is underlining what He said before: His Spirit is absolutely pure, truthful, alongside us, sent from Father God. We work in partnership with Him as we both testify about Jesus.]

9. v1-4, why is Jesus being so blunt about facing opposition?

[Leaders note: because he wants us to be ready and prepared, and so remain steadfast in Him.]

Please read John 16:5-15 - Jesus tells us more about Holy Spirit

10. v7, Jesus says that it is better that the Holy Spirit is with us, rather than us being with Him. Do you trust what Jesus says here is true? If so, why?

11. v8-15, what six things does Jesus list here that the Holy Spirit will do? Spirit from what Jesus says?

[Leaders note: convict the world of guilt (v8), sin (v9), righteousness (v10), judgement (v11). And guide us in to all truth (v13), and revealing more of Jesus (v14).]

12. How could you pray for the Spirit to lead you into the truth of God's word? How will you be praying for the Spirit to go to work to convince and convict your friends, your neighbours, our city of their need of Christ?

13. What is the Lord impressing on you in response to His teaching in this passage?