

Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been hated? Have you been hated because of your faith? What did Jesus mean when He said His followers would be hated? More importantly, what can we do to keep our faith strong when we love Jesus, but hate being hated?

GETTING STARTED

1. Share a time when you knew that someone hated you. What were you feeling? How did you respond?
2. Discuss a movie or book where people were hated and persecuted for their belief in something. How did their story affect you?

BIBLE IDEA

3. Read John 15:18-19. What does “the world” refer to? Now read 1 John 2:15-16. What are some of the reasons the world will hate followers of Jesus? If you know a story of modern day persecution, share it.
4. Read Jesus’ promise in John 16:33. How does that impact you? What hope does it give?
5. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. What are the positive outcomes we can expect from persecution? What does God want to reveal through persecution?

NEXT STEPS

6. Are you experiencing hatred, persecution, or opposition because of your faith? How has this discussion helped you?
7. Be still for a moment. What is the Holy Spirit saying for you to do as a response to this study?