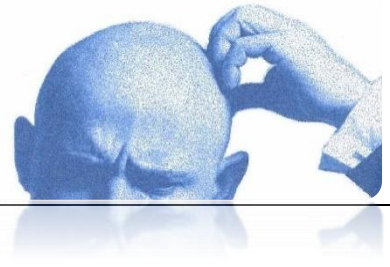


The World Will Hate You

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations. Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

*Our preaching series during the season of Lent will pick up stories in John 15-19 (Light in Dark Places). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories **BEFORE** you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.*

- Read **John 15:18-25**. What stands out for you in this text?
- Who is Jesus talking to? What difference does that make?
- What does Jesus mean by the term “world”? Is he referring to creation, humanity in rebellion, cultural systems opposed to God, or something else?
- In what ways did the world hate Jesus? Is that still the case?
- In the western context, most people don’t hate Jesus; they simply ignore him—consider his teaching outdated and irrelevant. Is this the same thing? Why?
- Jesus clearly states that his followers do not belong to the world (v. 19). In practical terms, what does this mean? How do we live in a world to which we do not belong?
- John Francis Kavanaugh (Catholic theologian) wrote: “Since Christian faith at rock bottom conflicts with western culture, even subverts it—the practicing Christian should look like a Martian. He or she will never feel at home in the commodity kingdom. If the Christian does feel at home, something is drastically wrong.” What do you think? Do you agree that we should be out of place in “the commodity kingdom”?
- Why does belonging to Christ necessarily produce conflict?
- Is opposition inevitable for faithful Christians, or can it sometimes reflect poor witness or cultural missteps?
- How should this passage shape our posture toward a hostile culture?