

Discussion and Devotional Guide - John 15:18-27

This resource can be used to guide your personal anchoring time throughout the week, a small group discussion, or even a one-on-one conversation.

<u>READ</u>

Begin by reading John 15:18-27.

- As you read, note how many times Jesus mentions about persecution and the world.
- What does Jesus mean when He speaks about "the world?"
- What questions do you have after reading these verses?

<u>REFLECT</u>

Jesus reminds us that his love causes drastic conflict as it creates dramatic change.

ON DRASTIC CONFLICT *Reread John 15:18-25.* Jesus clearly states that we should expect persecution because he was persecuted. Jesus is hated because his love brings conflict.

- What does persecution look like in the world around you?
- What tensions might we experience because we live in "the world" but follow Jesus?

ON DRAMATIC CHANGE *Reread John 15:26-27.* When we follow Jesus, we can expect persecution, but we can also know that we have the Holy Spirit to help us. We are not alone in the midst of persecution because He is with us!

- How does the Holy Spirit help us when we are enduring persecution or discouragement?
- If we are not intentionally being transformed by God's Word, we will unintentionally be transformed by the world. How can we be intentionally transformed by God's Word and the Spirit this week?

<u>PRAY</u>

Genesis 50:20

Begin your time of prayer by reading Ephesians 4:20-24. Read it slowly.

Now, use these verses to guide your prayer. To get you started...

FOCUS on how God has redeemed and renewed you.
THANK God for giving us a new heart, a new self.
CONFESS where we have fallen into our old ways rather than God's ways.
ASK God to give us his Spirit to lead us into dramatic change because of his love.

*Keep going this week by reading these scriptures: James 1:2–18 Galatians 5:13–18 Psalm 119:50

