

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 8, 2017

This Week's Focus: Jesus has sent us the Holy Spirit who guides us in truth, empowers us to live on mission, and provides us with endurance amidst persecution from the world.

This Week's Text: John 15:18-16:4

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- Up to this point, what theme has dominated the upper room discourse? Reference John 13:1. What new theme does Jesus introduce in 15:18 and how does it relate to love?
- Why should we expect to be hated by the world? Define the word "world" as Jesus uses it in this passage. Reference 1 John 2:15-17. How can we lovingly encourage one another as we experience the hatred of the world?
- As each year passes, are you less attracted to what this world offers and more excited about the coming Kingdom of God?
- What does Jesus mean in verses 24-25? What central sin is Jesus highlighting in these verses?
- How can we share God's love in word and deeds of love amid persecution from the world? Have you ever had to decide between taking the worldly way of ease and the godly way that led to ridicule/persecution? When we are hated, how can we make sure we are being hated for the right reasons (for the gospel)?
- Who is the Holy Spirit? Why does Jesus call him "the Spirit of truth"? How are we changed by the truth? Discuss how the Holy Spirit empowers believers for both mission and opposition.
- How can we continue to love and live on mission in our communities and spheres of influence even while we are being persecuted?