

# John 15:18-27

## “Jesus: Hated by the World”

**Scripture:** John 15:18-27

**Memory Verse:** John 15:18 *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.”*

**Lesson Focus:** The Bible is very clear that the people of God will be persecuted. In this lesson we will take a look at what persecution is and why it comes. We will also exhort the kids to live “in the world”, but not be “of the world”.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Jesus Fish, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jesus Loves Me

**Starter Activity:** Bumper Stickers

We will provide you with some pictures of bumper stickers to share with the kids.

First have some discussion about what bumper stickers are and why people might put them on their vehicles. Consider starting with the picture of the car smothered in bumper stickers.

Q: Why might people put bumper stickers or window decals on their cars?

A: They want to communicate ideas that are important to them!

Then take a look at some of the specific examples that we provided you and have some discussion about them. See below for some ideas about questions to ask. Consider asking the kids if their parents/grandparents have bumper stickers on their cars or share some of your own if you have some. \* Be sure to conclude with the “Not of this World” bumper sticker as this will transition us into the lesson.

- 1) Denver Broncos Emblem
  - Q: If you see this on someone’s car, what does it indicate?
- 2) Hang Up and Drive
  - Q: Why might someone put this on their car?
- 3) Not of this World
  - Q: Has anyone seen this before? What do you think it means?

Throughout the Bible, we see how God’s people, those who follow Jesus, are “set apart” from the world. Everyone lives “in the world”, but God’s people are to be “not of the world”. Jesus is going to talk about walk that looks like in our study today. Let’s take a look!

## Bible Study:

**John 15:18-19:** Jesus is very direct here in saying that the “world” hates Him and will hate His followers. The “world” represents all that is against God (i.e. Satan, sin, etc.).

Q: Why would the “world” hate Jesus? \*

A: Everybody likes Jesus “from afar”, but when people in the world come face-to-face with the real Jesus of the Bible and history, they come face-to-face with the one true and living, holy God and that they are sinners! They realize they have a sin problem!

At this point, people must either admit they have this sin problem and humbly ask Jesus to help them be “not of the world”, or they reject Jesus so they can continue in their sin to be “of the world”.

Q: Why might the “world” also hate those who follow Jesus?

A: Because the followers of Jesus are commanded to point people in the world to Him! When Christians do this, people in the world are faced with the same challenge. They must either decide to be for Jesus and surrender to Him. Or they are against Jesus and reject Him. \*

Jesus said in v. 19 that He chose them out of the world. They are not to be “of the world”. **Read 1 John 2:15-16.** This describes people “of the world”. They love the things of the world most of all. They hunger only for the next video game, pop song, experience, etc. \*

**John 15:20-21:** Jesus repeats what He said after He washed the disciple’s feet. If He, as their Lord and Master, served them, they are also to go and serve others. But now He talks about persecution which He says that they will also face!

Q: What does it mean to be persecuted?

A: It means that you are unjustly harmed, thrown in jail, or even killed because of something you represent. In this case, it is because you represent Jesus Christ.

Q: What happened to the early Christians? Think about the book of Acts. What do you read about in that book?

A: Peter thrown in jail! Paul and Silas thrown in jail! James and Stephen killed!

Q: Why? Because they were telling people to repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

**Teachers:** Consider sharing the picture of the other window sticker with the “ichthys” fish. Tell your kids that today people put these on their cars to declare they are Christians. But during the early church, Christians used this as a secret way of identifying themselves as “Not of this world”. It was secret because for hundreds of years they were being persecuted! \*

**John 15:22-25:** Jesus refers specifically to the sin of unbelief that the Jewish people who rejected Him are guilty of.

Q: What are some of the miracles that Jesus performed before their eyes?

A: Water into wine, feeding the 5000, healing the blind, etc.

This is unbelievable unbelief! But notice the condition of their hearts. What does it say in v. 23-24 about their hearts? They hate both Jesus and the Father. It didn't matter what Jesus said or did, their minds were made up!

**John 15:26:** Finally, some more encouraging news!

Q: Who is this Helper that Jesus is talking about? The Holy Spirit! Jesus introduced Him back in John 14 when He told them He would not leave them as orphans (**John 14:18**).

Here we are told that His job is to testify about Jesus Christ.

Q: What does it mean to testify?

A: Be a witness and show something to be true. The Holy Spirit came to testify and show the world that Jesus Christ really is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

**John 15:27:** Here we see HOW the Holy Spirit testifies. In and through believers! We are also to bear witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Sharing the gospel is what followers of Jesus Christ have been doing for 2000 years! And they have been persecuted because of the gospel for 2000 years!

Now you might be thinking: I'm a follower of Jesus and I don't feel persecuted. Well, that is because you are living in America where Christianity has flourished for 200 years!

**Teachers:** At this point show the picture showing where the church is most persecuted today! Notice that America isn't even there!

You might get made fun of for being "not of this world" in America. In places like North Korea, it will cost you your life! \*

The gospel means *good news*. If it is good news, why does sharing it bring such persecution? **Teachers:** Consider walking through this gospel acrostic with your kids and explain how people oppose these parts of the gospel:

**G**o: **Matthew 28:19** -> Go to all nations. But nations like N Korea don't want it!

**O**nly-Way: **John 14:6** -> Jesus is the ONLY way. No one enters but through Him.

**S**on of God: **John 3:16** -> He's the ONLY way because He ALONE paid for sin.

**P**ride: **Jeremiah 17:9** -> People don't like being told they have a sin problem.

**E**vil: **John 3:19** -> People naturally love darkness/evil rather than light.

**L**ake of Fire: **Revelation 20:15** -> Eternal punishment makes people uncomfortable.

**Key Point:** Some of these parts of the gospel emphasize the BAD NEWS. That people are sin-sick! People love their secret sins. People are in danger of eternal punishment which we all deserve because of sin. People love the world and do not want to let go of the things of the world!

But once they admit they actually have these problems, then they are ready to fully receive the GOOD NEWS of the gospel:

- That the Father loves you despite your sin!
- That there is forgiveness of your sin through faith in Jesus Christ!
- That there is a heavenly helper, the Holy Spirit, Who will help you live “not of the world”.

How about you? Do you need prayer for courage to live “in the world” but to be “not of the world”? Come and receive prayer! Remember the Holy Spirit will HELP YOU!

Our church has VBS this week. Pray for the kids who come who do not know Jesus that they would believe in Him.

Our church has missionaries that have answered the call to go to places on that map to share the gospel. \* They are being persecuted! Grab one of their mini-packets and pray for them!

# Bring It Home

*(Devotional for the Family)*

**Lesson Theme: “Jesus: Hated by the World”**

**Scripture: John 15:18-27**

**Memory Verse:** John 15:18 *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.”*

**Teachers/Parents:** We emphasized in our lesson how the followers of Jesus Christ are to live “in the world” but to be “not of the world”. This means that Christians are to be counter-cultural. What do you think it means to be counter-cultural? What do you think the Christian counter-culture should look like?

In our lesson, we discussed some reasons why the gospel is so counter-cultural. The gospel is “good news” and yet it offends people and often brings swift persecution upon those who faithfully share it and live it out. This gospel acrostic below highlights some of the truths of the gospel that are the hardest for people to accept. Discuss each:

- G**o: **Read Matthew 28:19:** Followers of Jesus Christ are to GO and lovingly preach this gospel to all nations. In class we looked at a chart that shared where Christians are most persecuted today for their faith. Do a google search for “Map of Christian Persecution” and discuss. Pray for the missionaries and Christians of those nations.
- O**nly-Way: **Read John 14:6:** Why might people not like this part of the gospel?
- S**on of God: **Read John 3:16:** Jesus is the unique Son of God sent in love by the Father. How does this help us understand WHY He is the only way?
- P**ride: **Read Jeremiah 17:9:** How does pride get in the way of people receiving the gospel?
- E**vil: **Read John 3:19 and 1 John 2:15-16:** This gets to the heart of what people “of the world” are really living for. How does this prevent people from receiving the gospel? Examine your own heart. What might you need help to let go of?
- L**ake of Fire: **Read Revelation 20:15:** This is the sobering end to all who die in their sin. Without this reality, there is no reason for the gospel. Who among your friends and family is in danger of this and what will you do about it?