

# The Follower's Trail Guide

NAVIGATING THE PATH OF JESUS

**OPENING UP**

When was the last time you stepped into a situation where it would've been helpful to know in advance what you were in for?

**TEXT****Haters and the Helper | John 15:18 – 16:4a**

<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. <sup>21</sup> They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>1</sup> “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you.”

**MESSAGE OUTLINE**

Big Idea: Knowing our opposition and our support helps disciples stay on the way.

1. The haters persecute Jesus; they will persecute you. (vv. 15:18-25)
2. The helper promotes Jesus; he will help you too. (vv. 15:26-16:4a)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- In verse 18 of chapter 15 Jesus says, “if the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.” As Christians, do we live like this statement is true? What does this statement practically mean for us in our lives today?
- By nature, we were born into the world, but through faith we have now been reborn into Christ! How can we be tempted to be of the world? How can we combat these temptations?
- Read Matthew 5:43-47. What does this text mean for you and for your life group? Who are you called to love, pray for, serve, share, or maybe even forgive?
- John 15:26 mentions the “helper” or “advocate” who Jesus will send through the Father. How could the Helper be a better help to us than if Jesus were physically present? What specific things does the Holy Spirit help us with?
- In 16:1, Jesus tells His disciples that He has told them all these things “so that you will not fall away.” How does knowing persecution is coming, and that God will help us through it, strengthen our resolve to live our lives for Christ and not conform to the world?

## LIFE CHALLENGE



Jesus was persecuted by the world, and so we will be persecuted as well. But He has sent us the Holy Spirit to help us and comfort us. The divine Helper within us reminds us of what Jesus said and empowers us to face every challenge with the strength of faith that Jesus showed walking to Calvary.

What pressures, temptations, or persecutions (big or small) do you experience in your life day by day? How can you practically lean on the strength of the Holy Spirit to help you stand up against the negative influences or mistreatment of the world this week?

## CLOSING PRAYER



Father God, thank you for suffering persecution, hatred, and ultimately death, on behalf of your children. It is because of your hardships, death, and resurrection that we can be in communion with You; this is a gift we could never earn or ever repay. Lord, strengthen us in times of adversity through Your Holy Spirit. Give us a heart that runs to You in times of trial, and loves You, Your Word, and Your truth more than the things of this world. Empower us through the Spirit to stand up against the temptation to conform to the world and embolden us to live lives that reflect your light and love into the darkness. Amen.