



## John 15:18-16:15 Small Group Discussion Questions

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- Have someone read John 15:18-25. What surprises you about Jesus' words here? What strikes you as important?
  - How would you summarize what Jesus tells His disciples here?
- What do you think are the key words of verses 18-20?
  - When John speaks about "the world," who do you think he's talking about? Who, or what, is the world?
  - Why would the world hate Jesus?
  - Wesley said that the hatred of the world can manifest itself in a number of ways. How have you seen the hatred of the world reveal itself?
  - Wesley also said that opposing God often looks like trying to block him out of our lives. How have you seen people do that? Before you were a believer, how did you try to block God out of your life?
- What do you think verse 19 means? What does it mean for Christians to be "not of the world"?
  - How do you think about the tension between the *fact* that the world will hate you because it hates Christ, and the call to still love those in the world? How do we endure hatred while still loving those who hate us?

- Sometimes Christians have a hard time accepting that the world will hate them and try to gain its approval. Where do you feel your own heart trying to gain approval from the world? What does this look like? What happens if we don't nip that temptation in the bud?
- Wesley said that the sooner we can accept that the church will not be popular in this world the sooner we can get on with living joyful lives with Jesus. How do we get to a point where we're okay with this fact? Practically, what does it look like to operate joyfully in this world?
- In verse 25, Jesus says that the world "hated me without a cause." What do you think this verse means? What does this tell us about the nature of sin and rebellion? What does it tell us about God?
- Have someone read John 15:26-16:15. Again, what stands out to you? How does Jesus' discourse change here, and how does it relate to 15:18-25?
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in 15:26-16:4?
  - Wesley said the Holy Spirit will help us to keep our calling in moments of danger and pressure. How does this work, do you think? Have you felt the Holy Spirit give you strength and resolve in moments of danger? What was that like?
  - Practically, how can we stay attuned to the Spirit to receive His strength in moments of danger and pressure?
- Wesley said that there are several ways that the Spirit will empower believers to be witnesses in this passage, and that verse 13 demonstrates that one way is through the truth that He reveals to the apostles that will become Scripture. What does this say about the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Scripture?
- How does the Spirit empower believers in verses 8-10?
  - How does conviction of sin empower believers?

- What does conviction feel like? How is it similar to or different from guilt?
- How do we view conviction as a gift instead of a curse? What does it look like to accept conviction of sin as God wants us to?
- Wesley said that a Spirit-filled witness is humble, not proud. In what ways does pride inhibit us from being faithful witnesses? What steps can we take to lean into humility in our witness instead of pride?
- Wesley also said that a Spirit-filled witness is characterized by courage, not fear. How does fear keep us from being faithful witnesses?
  - At what point does fear turn into sin?
  - What is the difference between earthly courage and Spirit-filled courage?
  - How do you cultivate courage in the Spirit?
- Finally, Wesley said that a Spirit-filled witness is characterized by hope, not pessimism.
  - What makes pessimism contrary to a Christian worldview?
  - What is it about Christianity that inspires so much hope?
  - Have you been hopeful or pessimistic lately? What is it that's made you pessimistic? How can you move from pessimism to hope in the Spirit?