



## Persecution – Leader’s Notes

John 15:18-25

For the week of September 14, 2020

**Background:** As the time for His death and resurrection drew near, Jesus gave special instructions to His disciples (recorded in John 13-17). He warned that those who follow Him will be subject to persecution, just as He was. Jesus did not want His followers to be surprised or caught off guard.

### Discussion:

1. If Christians are known for their love (see 13:34-35), why should we expect to face persecution? *As followers of Jesus, we will be identified with Him. Since “the world” hates Him, it will hate us too (v.18). They don’t know God and do not follow His teachings or commands (vs. 20-21).*
2. What has caused the world (those who are indifferent or even hostile towards God) to become so antagonistic towards believers? *They are guilty of sin and under God’s judgment. Rather than repenting and being saved, they have chosen to rebel against Him and therefore resent His disciples.*
3. Read Psalm 109:1-3. What is the most common type of persecution we face as Christians in America? *Vs. 2-3. Those who persecute us speak against us, spread false reports about us, and seek to undermine us in their anger and hatred towards God.*
4. Read Psalm 37:1-7. What can we do to protect ourselves from the evil in the world? *God’s Word tells us not to fret about evil or be envious of those who seem more blessed than we are (vs. 1, 7). We are to trust in the Lord and do good (vs. 3, 5); delight ourselves in Him (v.4); commit ourselves to living in His way (v.5); and wait patiently for Him to act in the best way possible for us (v.7).*
5. Due to the hatred of the world, what should be our response? (see John 3:16-21 and Matthew 5:43-48) *We are called to live in the light of God’s love and righteousness (John) and to love them and pray for them (Matthew).*