

DISCUSSION 1

Love for Friends (vv. 12-17)

1. In verses 12-17, Jesus made his love the standard for what love should look like for his disciples. Give some examples of ways that Jesus loved his friends.
2. In this section, Jesus wasn't talking about general love. What are some ways in which we are called to love fellow believers differently than we are called to "love our neighbor"? Which ways are we called to love both fellow believers and "our neighbor"?
3. What are some things that tend to bring disunity among Christians? How can we transcend these things with the kind of love Jesus describes in this passage?

DISCUSSION 2

Hate for Jesus (vv. 18-25)

1. Read verses 18-25. What were some of the different responses that people had towards Jesus in his ministry? Give examples.
2. Read John 7:7. According to this passage, why did people hate Jesus? What are some ways that Jesus exposed the sinful, religious spirit of those who hated him?
3. Have you ever met someone who hates Christianity? What were their reasons? How should the church respond to these reasons?

DISCUSSION 3

Hate for You (vv. 1-4)

1. According to John 15:18, we are hated because of the hate people have for Jesus. Have you ever been treated wrongly because of your faith in Christ? Give examples.
2. Read 16:1-4. What are some of the most extreme ways that Christians have been persecuted in America and overseas? How do these verses comfort us as we follow Christ in the midst of persecution?
3. Though we will be hated because of Jesus, some professing Christians have brought reproach on the name of Jesus because of their false teaching or immoral lifestyles. What are some examples of this? Why is it important that we rightly represent Christ to a fallen world?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read John 15:12-17 together and ask your children how Jesus's actions in this passage show true love. What about Jesus shows us what real love looks like. What does love look like in this passage? How have you seen your parents or siblings display this type of Christlike love?
2. Read verses 18-25. What is the response that Jesus received from many people while he was on earth? Read John 7:7. Why did people hate Jesus even though he did many good things?
3. As a family, list out a few of the ways that you enjoy spending time with God (Ex. reading the Bible, listening to worship music, or going to church). Then, read John 16:1-4. Explain to your children how many Christians around the world must hide their faith in God because it is dangerous to be a Christian. Consider using the College Park missionary Prayer Guide to pray for some of our missionaries in dark parts of the world.

APPLICATION

Take some time to journal what you're learning this week. As you do, consider the following:

- How can you practically love a fellow Christian this week? Who could you pray for? Who could you help with the gift of your time, your talents, or your treasure? Who would be most blessed by a generous gesture?
- In the last six months, have you shared your faith? If so, don't forget to thank God for the fruit you've seen. If not, how can you take steps to share your faith more regularly? Write down the names of people you hope will come to faith in Christ and then pray over the list.