

1. **Pray:** ask God to open your mind, soul and spirit to His teaching through His Word
2. **Think:** the questions are designed to expand your knowledge of God and His Word
3. **Begin:** using only your Bible, answer the questions without other outside sources

Lesson Twenty Two—The Gospel of John Chapter 15:18–16:4

March 4, 2009

1. Who is Jesus speaking to in John 15:18–16:4?
2.
 - a) When we encounter hatred, what are we to remember according to John 15:18 and 20?
 - b) According to Jesus in John 15:19 and 21, why does “the world” treat believers in Jesus with hatred?
 - c) Describe how Jesus’ revelation in John 15:19 brings you comfort or unease.
 - d) Jesus implies that one cannot belong to both the world and Jesus simultaneously. In what areas of your life do you struggle with feeling divided? Ask your group to uphold you as you bring these areas to the Lord in prayer.
3.
 - a) In John 15:22, 24–25, to whom is Jesus referring as “them” and “they” and “their”?

- b) Read Deuteronomy 18:15, 17–19. Why do you **think** “they have no excuse for their sin” (as written in John 15:22) now that Jesus had come and spoken to them?
- c) What is your excuse for sin now that you are studying Jesus’ words? Read Romans 7:21–8:4 as a rebuttal.
- d) Review and summarize why, according to John 15:24, “they” hated Jesus and the Father. Read John 5:16–18, 37–40; John 8:37, 40–41, 44–45; John 11:45–53 and John 15:25 to get you started.
4. a) Why does Jesus tell His disciples about the hatred of the world in John 16:1 and 4?
- b) List several reasons why you **think** Jesus’ presence, as written in John 16:4, allows Him to forego warning the disciples earlier of the hatred they would encounter. Read Matthew 9:15 for one possible answer.
- c) In John 16:2, what are some of the ways the hatred will manifest according to Jesus?
- d) Name some modern day ways hatred toward Jesus’ disciples are manifest.

5. a) In John 15:27, what does Jesus say should be our response to all this hatred?
- b) Name a time you encountered hatred and/or persecution for following Jesus from family or friends. How did you respond? (If you are not a follower of Jesus, have you encountered criticism or doubt from others for attending Bible study? How do you respond?)
- c) In John 15:26, who will Jesus send to help us in our response?
- d) Where is this person from and why do you **think** this is significant?
- e) According to John 16:13–14 and Isaiah 11:2, what are some of the attributes of this person?
6. a) After hearing what Jesus had to say in John 15:18–16:4, how do you think the disciples felt?
- b) List the positive messages with which Jesus encourages the disciples through this passage.

