

## Discussion Guide | John 15:18-25

### Gathering Question:

What is one way you've experienced God in your life this week?

### Gathering Prayer

*Father, by Your Spirit, would You guide us into all truth. Help us to hear and be attentive to Your voice as we work through this study. In the name of Jesus, Your Son, we pray, Amen.*

### Opening Questions

- What stood out to you in the sermon?
- What insights did you gain?
- What questions did it raise?

### Read John 15:18-25

### Reality of Persecution

- How do you respond to Jesus' assumption of persecution for his followers? What would that assumption say to us today in our context?
- Persecution comes in "different shapes and sizes." What kinds of losses or oppositions feel most realistic in our context?

### Reason for Persecution

- Why do you think Jesus' message is acceptable as moral advice but offensive as ultimate truth?
- What's the difference between Jesus being part of your life and being the source of your life?
- How does the world tend to answer the deep questions of life, like: "Who am I?" "What gives my life value?" "What makes me secure?" "What is the purpose of my life?" Why is it threatening to the world when someone no longer relies on the same answers for themselves?
- Can you think of a time when choosing to rely on Jesus—even quietly—made you feel *out of step* with others?

### Response to Persecution

- How did Jesus respond when he was misunderstood, rejected, or falsely accused?
- Why is defensiveness often our default reaction when we feel challenged or threatened?
- Our response to opposition reveals who we belong to. What kinds of responses suggest belonging to the world? What kinds of responses reflect belonging to Christ?
- What do you think it looks like, practically, to respond with patience, humility, and love without becoming passive or silent about truth?

### Closing Prayer