

missional community

guide

The Way of Jesus

JOHN 15:18-25

Use this guide to help structure your time together. All of these parts are equally valuable for the health and growth of a Missional Community. The examples given below are meant to be a starting point for your time together.

Fellowship

Take time to fellowship with each other.

- How did you express love to one another this week?
- How did you live out of your identity as God's friend this week?

Prayer

Take time to pray together as a Missional Community incorporating the passage into your corporate prayer.

Adore God for who He is:

- God chooses us "out of the world" (15:19).
- Those whom God has chosen, know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Confess the ways that you have not been faithful to God:

- When you are afraid of being hated for Jesus' name.
- When you are afraid to confess Jesus' name to others.
- When you are afraid of being rejected by the world.

Thank God for what He has done:

- God has given us an example of being hated; His own Son.
- God has given us hope in Jesus.

Supplication - Pray for those in your MC and outside of your MC:

- Kingdom: That I can faithfully proclaim Jesus' name even at the risk of being hated and rejected by the world.
- Others: That I can be a good example so that my co-workers, family and friends realize I have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- Self: To have courage to proclaim Jesus' name to those around me, even at the risk of being hated and rejected.

Passage

Process through the passage together.

What does the text say?

Before you jump into discussion, make sure that everyone has a good understanding of the passage. Read the passage again and then work together to retell the passage without reading it.

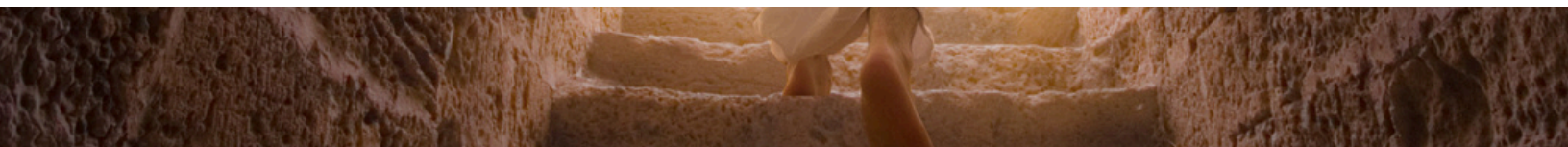
Background info about the author, audience, style, etc. that may be of help.

- Jesus is speaking with His disciples during the “Last Supper” event. Thus far Jesus has talked about the disciples needing to be washed by Jesus, the coming Counselor, about remaining in Him, about Jesus being the True Vine, and about loving one another as Jesus loves... and here in 15:18-25 Jesus let His disciples know that they will be rejected by the “world”.
- Throughout vs’ 18-25, Jesus designates two paradigms for reality, there is the “world” and there are the “chosen”. The “chosen” are those who do not belong to the “world” rather they have been chosen by God “out of the world” (See 15:19) In contrast to the “chosen”, the “world” designates those who do not know the Father. Several identifying factors make up those who belong to the “world”: the world loves those who belong to the world, the world will hate those who do not belong to the world, the world hates Christians because they have been chosen to be apart from the world, the world hates Christians on account of Jesus’ “name”, the world does not know the Father, the world hates Jesus because He convicts the world of sin...
- The “world” is made up of those who do not know the Father, Son or the Holy Spirit. The “world” rejects the word of God and they reject anyone who speaks the word of God. The “world” hates Jesus and anyone who brings to light their sin and convicts of sinfulness.
- The “chosen” know the Son and the one who sent Him, the Father. The “chosen” know and value God’s word, the “chosen” repent when they are convicted of sin. As looked at last week, the “chosen” are called to love one another in the same way that Jesus loves us.
- Those designated to the “world” are not just prostitutes, drug dealers, individuals with sexual issues, but the “world” is anyone who rejects the word of God and anyone who rejects the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke this truth within the context that the religious leaders of Jerusalem were of the “world” and those who were rejected by such religious leaders were in actuality of the “chosen”.
- This may be considered the “contrast of the chosen”. Don’t be fooled by outward appearance, false virtue or false morality, the “chosen” value God’s word and they know the Father whereas the “world” will reject God’s word and they reject the Father.
- The world/chosen paradigm is similar to the light/dark paradigm seen at the beginning of and throughout John’s gospel.

What do we learn about God from this text?

Have members input what the Holy Spirit has revealed to them about who God is from this text.

- God designates His “chosen”. How can you have confidence that you are of the “chosen”? Do you value and know God’s word? Do you know the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit and value having a relationship with them? Do you value the things that go against God’s word?



What do we learn about man from this text?

Have members input what the Holy Spirit has revealed to them about who man is from this text.

- Being convicted of sin hurts. The “chosen” will take such conviction and go to God in repentance, whereas the “world” will reject God because they don’t like being convicted.

What is there that we can obey from this text?

- To realize that the “world” will hate Christians. The world will hate those who know God because such people value God’s word

Are there commands that still apply to disciples today? If so, what?

- Yes. This still applies to disciples today.

Other passages in Scripture with similar themes or principles:

These are passages that could be helpful to draw from for further informing today’s text.

- John 1:1-13
- John 3:20
- John 9:35-41
- Psalm 35:19
- Psalm 69:4
- 2 Timothy 3:12
- James 4:4
- 1 Peter 4:12-14
- 1 John 2:11

Application

Now that a good understanding of who God is and how He relates to man has been established from this passage, how does this impact our lives? What are specific things that each member needs to apply in their life this week?

What applications directly from the passage can be applied this week?

- Be encouraged in the event you are rejected or even persecuted on account of your Christian faith.

There may be things that the Holy Spirit is leading us to obey that are not directly from the text, share those as well.

- When you are convicted of sin, do you run to the Father or away from the Father?

Be sure to take time to discuss how you can support and encourage each other in the things God is calling you to apply throughout the week.

- Ask the question: “How can we help you with that?”

Mission

Discuss how you will work together this week to impact the world around you.

- Following the recent COPE event, in what ways will our MC better prepare to engage with those coming out of homelessness June 7–9, for Wedgwood’s BLESS Weekend?



Questions for Discussion

- How would you define those that belong to the “world”?
- How would you define those who belong to Christ?
- How can we be confident in knowing we are of Christ?
- What kind of people might we mistake as being of Christ but are rather part of the “world”?
- Can you explain why Christians will be/are hated?
- Can you think of any examples where Christians have been/are persecuted?
- What could persecution look like?
- What does it feel like to be convicted of sin?
- How should we react in the case I am/you are convicted of sin?
- Why is this topic important for the disciples to know?

VISION: to engage 2000 new unchurched neighbor households by 2028.

MISSION: We exist to glorify Christ by making disciples of all nations who worship, cultivate biblical community, live a generous life, and multiply disciples.

VALUES: Spirit Led / Pursuit of Unity / Kingdom Over Self / Adaptability

