

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

*IF THE WORLD HATES YOU*  
The Gospel of John — Week 55

**ICEBREAKER:** Which animals scare you most? Why?

**OVERVIEW:** Persecution is the normal environment for Christians. If we have peace and quiet, as we have for many years in the United States, it is an anomaly. The Christians in the first century faced intense persecution, and therefore the Bible gives a great deal of attention to instructing Christians on how to respond to it. Just before Christ's death, as His enemies were plotting His murder, Christ spent some time preparing His disciples for the coming tribulation. Christ's words on the subject of persecution still provide great insight and encouragement for us today. In this discussion we will focus on facing persecution in a God-glorifying way.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What are the potential threats of persecution to a Christian's spiritual life? (Hint: See John 16:1, 4, 33.)
3. Why was Jesus hated?
4. Why are Christians often hated ?

5. How can we find comfort in Christ's words in John 15-16?
6. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. What should Christians do when they face persecution?
7. What can we learn about responding to persecution from Christ's response to persecution?
8. What is the biggest cause of persecution against Christians in the United States, and how should we handle it?

**The Last Word:** "You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life." Winston Churchill