

- b. To pray for the world to take notice of the atrocities and to stand united against it.
 - c. To pray for those who seek to inflict harm on believers, to become believers themselves.
10. History has demonstrated that periods of persecution becomes the fuel for church growth. Why does the church tend to grow more during periods of persecution?
11. Are there any other comments or lessons from the message you want to discuss?

Response – Making it Practical

- 1. How has this study challenged the way you've understood persecution?
- 2. How can you begin to pray for fellow believers around the world?

You can access more messages on our sermon page at www.villagegreen church.com.

We're also on Facebook and iTunes.
You can also check out the Pastor's Corner on our website.



Life Group Study Notes

Study based on John 15:18-27 - November 13, 2016

It is almost surprising the amount of hatred generated over simple belief. Yet, for many around the world, their lives are in constant peril because of their faith in Jesus.

In this message Jesus tells his followers in a straightforward and candid manner, the reality of the persecution they will face. Today, as we honour the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, we stand in unison with the countless lives that have been threatened and even cut short, by the hatred that exists against Christians.

May we be a church atuned to the universal body of believers who need our prayers and our ongoing advocacy to alleviate their suffering.



Study – Discovering What the Bible Says?

Read John 15:18-27

1. Have you ever experienced discrimination or persecution because of your belief in Christ?
2. When do we cross the line from hardship into outright persecution? In other words, what defines persecution?
3. Discuss the importance of context in which this passage in John is found?
4. How do we understand the contrast between love and hate in verses 18-19?
5. What characteristics given in the message are not what we typically hear as part of the definition for being a Christian?
6. How does this passage teach us about the Trinity?
7. How was the term, “Advocate” defined in the message and what will the Spirit specifically do for believers?
8. Does this passage support the common notion that most like Jesus but dislike his followers?
9. With respect to persecution, what should be at the heart of our prayers? Discuss the following options. Lastly, which option should be our greatest priority?
 - a. To pray for protection of fellow believers