**GET OUT OF THE LAZY RIVER**

**John 15:18-25**

* **Have you ever been in a situation where you thought someone didn’t like you?**
* **Is it possible to live for Jesus and not have anyone dislike you because of it?**

*“If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. 20 Remember the word I spoke to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they don’t know the one who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 The one who hates me also hates my Father. 24 If I had not done the works among them that no one else has done, they would not be guilty of sin. Now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But this happened so that the statement written in their law might be fulfilled: They hated me for no reason.”* (John 15:18-25)

**THE BIG IDEA: If you live like Jesus, some people won’t like you. And that’s okay.**

* **Make sure you are going against the current.**

**IF YOU ARE GOING WITH THE FLOW, CHECK YOUR ETHICS.**

**IF YOU ARE GOING WITH THE FLOW, CHECK YOUR EVANGELISM.**

**IF YOU ARE GOING AGAINST THE FLOW. LOOK FOR THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.**

* *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.”* (Galatians 5:22-23)

**What can I do with this?**

1. **Choose to follow Jesus however you are doing.**
   1. **If you are going with the flow, follow Jesus instead.**
   2. **If you are going against the flow, make sure you are becoming like Jesus.**
2. **Ask yourself this question: “Is God calling me to be a missionary?”**
3. **Be saved. (Jesus came to rescue you.)**
   * *“No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.”* (John 15:13)

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** What do you like to do for fun? (Remember, the goal of the ice-breaker is to get to know one another better. It is not necessarily meant to be a “spiritual” question.)

**Start Thinking:**

* + What do you learn about God from John 15:18-25?
  + Looking at John’s gospel, how did the majority culture respond to Jesus?
  + How does Jesus explain the Christian’s relationship with “the world” or non-Christians?
  + Why do you think many people hated Jesus so much?

**Digging Deeper:**

* + How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus was rejected by most in the culture of His day?
  + How does it make you feel knowing that living faithfully for Jesus will cause many in today’s culture to dislike you/hate you?
  + How do you ensure that you are not “going with the flow” in today’s culture?
  + Since all Christians are instructed to evangelize the lost, and evangelism will invite opposition at times, how do you overcome the fear of people disliking/opposing you?
  + Why is it important to ensure that while “going against the flow” of culture, that you are displaying the Fruit of the Spirit?
  + What is your big takeaway from this message?