



# Transform Notes

## John 15:18-25 Living Counter-Culturally

**Reflect:** (Spend time with God thinking about these statements or questions)

- ❖ Take some time to read and meditate on John 15:18-25. Try reading the passage in multiple versions, translations, and paraphrases.

**Interact:** (Discuss the following questions with your group, some friends, or just you and God)

- ❖ Read John 15:18-20 and Romans 12:2. Share the differences you perceive between the *world* and *Christians*. Do you think Christians blend in to easily?
- ❖ Share how you choose to live differently as a follower of Christ. How are your values/priorities different? How is your schedule different? How are your relationships different? How are your finances different? Etc.
- ❖ Over the past two weeks we have been talking about how *our lives* should be *transformed* as a result of abiding in Christ. Basically the way we live becomes aligned with the will of God and as a result we *bear fruit* or reveal the Good News that God is reconciling the world to Himself. This transformational abiding changes not only our views but our whole life. Can those in the world recognize by the way you live that you are not of this world, beyond a bumper sticker on your car?
- ❖ How do you think those outside of our church community would describe us as a church? Do these descriptions reveal the reality of God's Kingdom? What changes do we as a community, need to make to be more aligned with God's will? Think of all aspects of our life together, Sunday mornings, our role in the community, etc..
- ❖ How, as a Life group, living counter-culturally? What changes do you need to make to be more aligned to God's will/mission?

- ❖ Read John 15:20-25. *Hate* is a strong word, do you feel the world hates Christians for the right or wrong reasons? Using what scripture you know, describe good reasons to be hated by the world and bad reasons. Here are some example questions to get thought going: Do they hate us for our stance on certain morality issues? Do they hate us because we deeply care for the poor? Do they hate us because we treat everyone as dearly loved children of God? Etc.
- ❖ If all that people knew about God were the life and practice of our church, what would they know?
- ❖ Do you feel God is asking you to live differently as an individual? Do you think God is asking us to live differently as a community? Explain.

**Apply:** (Look for ways to apply at least one concept to your life)

- ❖ \*\*\*\**This is from last week but if you have not done it yet, try this week.* Abiding takes time and space. Take some time and sit down with your daily calendar or a piece of paper. Reflect on a normal day. Where are there moments to take a minute or more and give them to God? When are there extended times for silent prayer, scripture study, or meditation. Begin to plan your daily schedule with abiding involved.
- ❖ Take time at the end of the day and reflect on how lived that day? Where there ways you blended in with the culture and should have lived differently? Where there times when people "hated" you because of your life with God? Did you see God actively working and did you join in? Where was he active but you didn't see it at the time? How do you think God is calling you to live differently?