



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: The Cost of Friendship

TEXT: John 15:12-16:4

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: While on earth, Jesus did not surround himself with a group of students or even a group of followers. He placed himself in the company of friends. To admit that we need friends is a sign of maturity, not immaturity. Close relationships are Christlike! In this passage Jesus shows us what friend - ship with him is really like. There's both comfort and cost.

Discussion Questions:

1. In your opinion, what are some of the most important qualities in a friendship?
2. Read John 15:12-17. Jesus' command in verse 12 is, "Love each other as I have loved you." In what specific ways did Jesus demonstrate his love? In what practical ways can we, like Christ, lay down our lives for our friends?
3. What are the requirements and benefits of friendship with Christ (v. 17)?
4. Is being a friend of Jesus the same as being a believer in Jesus? Explain.
5. Read John 15:18-25. If love is to characterize our relationship with believers, hate will characterize our relationship with the world. Discuss the reason Jesus gives for the world's hatred?
6. Give one or two specific examples of how you have experience world's hatred as a Christian. How did you respond to the hostility at the time?
7. What does Jesus mean when he says that without his coming, his words and his miracles, the world "would not be guilty of sin" (v. 22-25)?
8. Read John 15:26-16:4. Discuss the specific ways by which the Counselor and the disciples themselves can continue and make efficient and effective the ministry begun by Jesus (v. 26-27)?
9. Discuss the kind of treatment can the disciples expect from those who do not know Christ (16 :1-4)?

10. What kinds of persecution are most probable for us in our society? Explain.

11. If we as Christians are not persecuted in some way, what might that imply about our spiritual commitment?