

Opposition Questions

Way in

Hate is a strong word. Discuss examples where the word is used. How does the use of this word make you feel?

Read **John 15:18 - 16:4**

1. In John 15 verse 18 who is the hatred of “the world” targeted against? Can you suggest why this is?

2. Those who express the emotion of hatred are described as “the world.” Who do you think John is describing in the phrase “the world“?

3. In John’s Gospel every chapter between 1 and 18 (with the exception of 2 and 5) make some reference to “the world”. Generally these references to “the world” are about those in rebellion against God. Look at John Chapter 1: 9 – 13. What was “the world’s” reaction to Jesus? Now look at John chapter 3:16 - 17. What is the difference between “the world’s” reaction and God’s action?

4. In Chapter 15 v 26 the disciples are again promised the Counsellor (Comforter, Helper, and Friend), who is the Spirit of truth. (Also see 14:15 – 17 and 14:25 - 26). John 14:26 makes it clear this Counsellor is the Holy Spirit. What is the reaction of “the world” to the Holy Spirit (14:17)? How does this compare to “the world’s” reaction to Jesus and the Father in 15:24?

5. When we feel that “the world” is against us what help can the Holy Spirit give us? (Look again at the verses in John 14 in Question 4).

6. In verse 26 what is the function of the Holy Spirit which we are called to emulate?

Quote for Reflection

“The Holy Spirit will come upon the disciples when Jesus is taken from them. He will bear witness against the world as Jesus did, and he will bring conviction (John 16:8). But he will not do it on his own. “The spirit will bear witness to me and you will bear witness(15:27). So when Jesus breathes his spirit upon them after the resurrection, it is to enable them to enter into his mission received from the Father (John 20:20-23). John is saying loud and clear, that the coming of the Spirit upon the Church is equipping it for evangelism.”

Michael Green - from “I Believe in the Holy Spirit”

All is Ahead Questions

Way in

We live in a world where you can watch almost any sport at any time of the day from the comfort of your armchair! Why do you think we like this? What do we miss out on by not getting directly involved ourselves?

Read **Philippians 3:12-14**

1. Paul starts by saying that there is something he has not yet obtained. Looking back to verses 7-11, work out what Paul already has, and what he is still waiting for.

2. The bible makes it clear that everyone who wants to live a godly life in Jesus will face difficulties (2 Timothy 3:12). What difficulties have you already faced? How did you cope with them? How can you prepare yourself for tough times in the future?

3. Paul explains that living as a Christian has striking similarities with being an athlete in a race. Identify the phrases that he uses to make this comparison and try to work out what they might mean for you as a follower of Jesus.

4. Healthy disciples of Jesus will have both a clear commitment to spiritual disciplines and also a deep trust that their lives are secure because of what God has done. What can you do to make sure that you are getting stronger in both of these? How could you show more eagerness to live 'all out' for Jesus? How can you grow in your confidence of what God has already done for you?

5. Take time to think about and pray through some practical steps that you could take.

Quote for **Reflection**

"When the message about God's completed and eternally effective work is applied to the heart or conscience of believers, it brings about an inner conviction of forgiveness, acceptance and hope. A life of dedicated service or worship results." (David Peterson)