



Wk 2 of 3: Jesus Said What?!
Sept 19, 2021

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to be prepared to handle any rejection they receive for following Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

Main Scripture:

- [John 15:18-27 \(NLT\)](#)

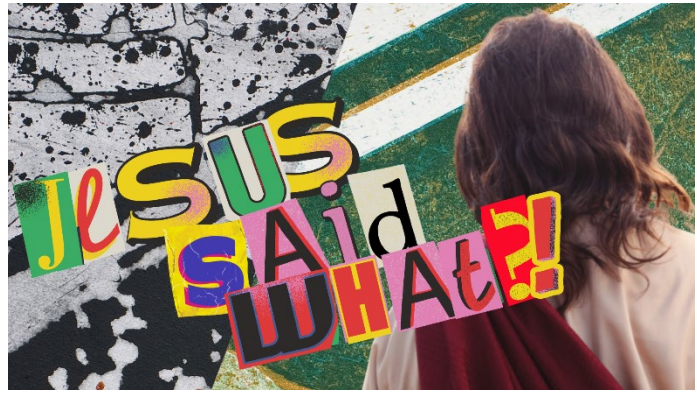
Secondary Scripture:

- [1 John 3:13 NLT](#)

THINK ABOUT THIS

- 1) Talking about being rejected can be a sensitive subject for middle schoolers because they are in such turmoil about where they belong and if they are liked already. Remind your students they belong with God and are of great value, despite if others accept or reject their faith.
- 2) If we follow Jesus, rejection will come because of it. We know this because Jesus said it. We are talking about it because when it happens, we want students to be prepared. We don't want them to be caught off-guard and possibly fall away from a life with Jesus because of it.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do or ask everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Jesus warns rejection will come and He helps us through it.

GET THEM TALKING

What are some things people do to be liked by others?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it feel like when someone makes fun of us or rejects us?
2. What are some things you've heard people say to make fun of Jesus or of His followers?

READ JOHN 15:18-27 and discuss the following questions:

1. Why do these verses say the world will hate us? (HINT: look back at verse 19)
2. Why can it be so hard to stand up to rejection?
3. Have you ever been made fun of or rejected because of your faith? (Who is willing to share about that?)
4. How does God help us to face rejection? (HINT: look back at verse 26)

READ 1 JOHN 3:13 and discuss the following questions:

5. The opposite of being surprised is being ready for something. Think of one comforting truth you can remind yourself when you face rejection. (Ex: God loves me). Let's share and make a list together.
6. How can we turn to God's spirit inside of us for strength in moments of rejection?

NEXT STEP

Write down a comforting truth or Bible verses somewhere you will see it everyday this week. Look at it every morning and remind yourself that rejection may come, but God empowers you to handle it.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask students for their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

JOHN 15:18-27 (NLT)

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ¹⁹ The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. ²⁰ Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. ²¹ They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. ²² They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Anyone who hates me also hates my Father. ²⁴ If I hadn’t done such miraculous signs among them that no one else could do, they would not be guilty. But as it is, they have seen everything I did, yet they still hate me and my Father. ²⁵ This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures: ‘They hated me without cause.’

²⁶ “But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. ²⁷ And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.”

1 JOHN 3:13 (NLT)

“So don’t be surprised, dear brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.”