

HATED FOR OUR HERO

September 7, 2025

Get a Grip & Get a Life // Preparing for Departure // John 15:18-16:4

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. What's new in your life lately? Where have you seen God at work in your life or the lives of others?
2. This week's sermon began by considering how we must sometimes prepare for things we'd rather not face (like "check yes or no" school notes or medical procedures). What's the most humorous or awkward way you've ever had to "prepare" for something?
3. Who has been the most encouraging example of faithfulness under pressure in your life?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

4. Read John 15:18-16:4 [have someone read it aloud for group time]. What stood out to you in the sermon this week and what did God reveal to you in His Word, maybe for the first time?
5. In John 15:20, Jesus says "a slave is not greater than his master," indicating that if He faced persecution, His followers should expect the same. What are some reasons why we don't seem to face the same persecution? In what ways do we mistakenly assume we should have it better?
6. What does this world love and why? Why does this world hate the truth of the gospel?
7. Where have you see the word and works of Jesus exposing sin in those who do not know the Father and leading them to hatred? Was there ever a time when you responded to the word of God that was shared with you with hatred towards what was being revealed or towards the one sharing it?
8. Pastor Jeremy declared in this message that there's one thing the world doesn't hate – which is "undercover Christians." When are we most tempted to fly under the radar with our faith and how does this contradict what Jesus said His disciples would do in John 15:27 and in the broader biblical picture?
9. What are some things that the world's hatred and persecution can take from us? What are some things that they cannot take from us?
10. How can we know in which areas it's okay to be like the world (styles, fads, etc.) and where we need to be distinct?
11. How should Christians handle a request to lie for the boss or respond when a dirty joke is told?

PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

12. Are there any areas in your life where you might sense God prompting you to consider that you're just going with the flow of this world? How can we pray for you to break out of the world's conformity into greater obedience for Jesus?



13. Who in your life needs a testimony of the truth you've been privileged to experience in Christ? How can we equip and encourage you to be the witness that is needed?

Pray together for any requests your group might have and pray specifically that God will strengthen our resolve to testify to what He's done regardless of the costs we might face as we are hated for our Hero.

Announcements

Welcome to Trimester 3 of Life Groups for 2025! This trimester will run through November 16. We want our Life Groups to be a benefit to your discipleship journey, so if you have any feedback on how we can better equip you in your walk with Christ through this avenue, let us know at groups@nvf.life.

Our next On Ramp Class will be on Wednesday, September 17 at 6pm. If you are new to New Vision or have been skimming the surface for some time, this is the way you can discover your next step in going deeper with your walk with Jesus here. This class typically lasts about 2 hours and includes a delicious meal and childcare, if needed. We'll discuss how you can take the on ramp to faith, baptism, groups, serving, giving, and membership. Text #class to 336-444-6831 or contact the church office to let us know if you're considering coming.

Our 2025 Sportsman Banquet will be on Saturday, October 4. Online registration is now active at <https://nvf.life/sportsman> (\$20 with a \$10 discount for ages 10 and under). This event is designed to be an outreach to men with a hearty meal including wild game tastings, time in fellowship, sportsman-themed giveaways, and a clear presentation of the gospel. Please invite others from our community to come. We welcome ladies with an interest in the outdoors to attend, as well. Jeff Sellers is heading up the volunteer efforts and would welcome other hands to pitch in.

Individual Options for Going Deeper

Check out this article from Desiring God via John Piper answering the question "Should the world like us or hate us?":

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/should-the-world-like-us-or-hate-us>