

Following Jesus

Directions: Read the brief reflection and then answer the questions.

This week's Gospel is a hard teaching. Jesus comes home to Nazareth to begin His ministry. At first, He is welcomed. But soon the people turn against Him.

Later, in John 15, Jesus says this:

"If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first...If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."

To be persecuted means to be badly mistreated, especially because of what you believe. Jesus tells us that we will be persecuted when we follow Him. Even Jesus was persecuted! Being a disciple of Jesus is hard. People will not want to listen to us. They will mistreat us for living differently.

But Jesus promises to be with us. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to make us strong and to guide us. He does not leave us alone. He helps us when we are persecuted for following Him.

1. What are two things about being a Christian that are easy for you to do?

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2. What are two ways that being a follower of Christ is hard?

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3. When being a Christian is hard, what can you do to stay strong?