

Sunday School Lesson: Embracing Rejection for the Sake of Jesus

Goal: To understand that rejection from the world can be a part of following Christ and that this is a sign of faithfulness to Jesus.

Scripture References:

- Luke 6:22-23
- John 15:18-20
- Matthew 5:10-12
- 1 Peter 4:12-14

Lesson Outline

1. Understanding Rejection in Following Jesus

- **John 15:18-20:** Jesus warns His disciples that the world will hate them because it hated Him first.
- Following Jesus can lead to rejection:
 - Living a life that reflects Christ's teachings may contradict societal norms.
 - Choosing values of love, forgiveness, and humility can be countercultural.
- Question: Have you ever felt rejected for your faith? How did that make you feel?

2. Blessings in Rejection

- **Luke 6:22-23:** Jesus tells His followers that they are blessed when they are hated, excluded, or insulted for His sake.
 - How do these moments lead to deeper reliance on God and strengthen faith?
 - Does rejection signify that we are living out our faith authentically?
- Question: What are the positive aspects of being set apart for Christ.

3. Responding to Rejection

- **Matthew 5:10-12:** Jesus encourages those who are persecuted for righteousness. They are called to rejoice and be glad because their reward is great in heaven.
 - What are some practical ways to respond to rejection:
 - Prayer and seeking God's strength.
 - Staying connected with other believers for support.
 - Sharing personal testimonies of faith that encourage others.
- Question: How do we reshape rejection into opportunities for ministry?

4. Finding Strength in Community

- Read **1 Peter 4:12-14**: Peter reminds believers not to be surprised by trials but to rejoice in sharing Christ's sufferings.
 - What is the importance of Christian community in facing rejection and persecution?
 - Question: How do we support one another through prayer and accountability?

Closing Questions:

- What are the questions you ask yourself when you encounter “rejection”?
- How can you encourage others who have or are experiencing “rejection”?
- What is the most important take-a-way from this lesson for you today?

Scriptural References:

Luke 6:22-23 - "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven, for so their fathers did to the prophets."

John 15:18-20 - "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will also keep yours."

Matthew 5:10-12 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

1 Peter 4:12-14 - "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."