

“Got Haters?”
Series: “*Road Trip*”²
(Part 2 of 4)

Open: Has there ever been someone in your life who you felt was “out to get you” (teacher, co-worker, neighbor, etc.)? Without mentioning any names, share a few details from that experience.

Explore: Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22.

In 1 Samuel, Saul was pursuing David in an attempt to kill him and keep David from replacing him as king over Israel. However, David demonstrated amazing respect and restraint when he had the opportunity to kill Saul.

1. If David were to send out a tweet (140 character sentence), what might he have written when King Saul walked into his hideout (vs. 1-4)?
2. Why didn’t David take advantage of the situation and take Saul’s life (vs. 5-7)?
3. How would you describe the tone of David’s comments once he went out of the cave to speak to Saul (vs. 8-15)? How did David view God’s role in this situation?
4. How would you describe the tone of Saul’s comments (vs. 16-21)? In what way did Saul view God’s role in this situation?

Reflect: Review key points from the lesson before discussing the questions. Feel free to ask the same question to more than one person.

1. Tim Tebow has drawn a lot of criticism for the way he carries himself as well as his Christian beliefs. How might you handle the situation if you were in his shoes?
2. Why do you think some people have such a hard time accepting (Jesus said people will hate you) Christians or the Christian lifestyle.
3. Pastor Chris brings up a great point about our actions (see the second point on the outline). Who influenced / influences you to put your faith and trust in God? How does this point impact the way you view your own actions?
4. Persecution against and intolerance toward Christians is a reality for many believers around the world. Spend some time searching the website, www.persecution.com, for current events which speak to this issue. Can you think of any positive results that arise from persecution?
5. Do you ever stop to think about how your beliefs and actions may be perceived by others? Have your concerns about what people think ever kept you from saying or doing something that would identify you as a Christ follower? How will this lesson change your position?

Apply: Next steps.

As a group: Faith is not just a private matter – it should be lived out publicly. What could your group do to “Go Public” with your faith in your community? Pray about it, brainstorm ideas, and then go for it!!!

On your own: Christian persecution is as real today as it was for Paul and Silas. Take a look at *The Voice of the Martyrs* website, www.persecution.com, and spend some time reflecting on the hate and intolerances toward Christianity. Choose one day a week when you will pray for those who may be in harm’s way.

Listening Guide Notes

Text: Acts 16:16-40

When you live for Jesus...

1. There will be haters.

^[18] “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ^[19] If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ^[20] Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.”

–**John 15:18-20 (p. 753)**

2. Your stand for Jesus gives those in between a choice.

3. If you’ve got haters, you get rewards.

^[10] “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ^[11] Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ^[12] Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” –**Matthew 5:10-12 (p. 677)**

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” –**Isaiah 53:5 (p. 511)**