

(Supper and After)

Chat with Children: She loves me, she loves me not

- *(Daisy image on screen, and printed out)*
- Intro old children's game of "she loves me / she loves me not"
 - get couple of kids out to put dots round the daisy to work out whether its a "she loves me" daisy or a "she loves me not" daisy!
- God loves us:
 - but not everyone else around us does
 - some people will react to the signs of God's life within us, and will hate us...
 - in some places that hate for people who follow Jesus is very direct
 - most often here it is less direct - its mockery, pressure not to follow Jesus, not to spend time with other Christians...
 - when I was at school I got called names sometimes for following Jesus, was teased
 - but I knew Jesus love for me was bigger and better than the bad things that other people did...

Prayer

- Help us know your love for us, Lord, even when other people hate/dislike us because we follow you

When do we hate?

- When might people in our society say they hate someone?
 - some bad crime - paedophiles, murderers, rapists... [our sense of justice](#)
 - opposing values - people who stand for things very different from us - maybe politically (perhaps more so in the past?), or ideologically (racists, or religious groups who oppress women, or...)
 - personal hurt - infidelity, letting kids down, mistreating us
- Hatred: [feel intense or passionate dislike for someone](#); [intense dislike or ill-will](#)
- Its been part of Christian history
 - from Jewish authorities and early Roman persecution
 - through all sorts of persecutions through history
 - right up to present age - bombings in Pakistan, killings in Iraq, church services targetted in northern Nigeria, arrests and detentions in North Korea, discrimination in many Muslim majority countries...
- Sometimes overt, clear
 - sometimes quieter, implicit, hiding behind a mask of niceness...

Why tell us?

- Why did Jesus tell us?
- Astray ([image](#)) - is this a doctrinal astray, or a behavior astray or an attitude astray?
 - astray: "[skandalizo](#)" - does not refer to making a mistake but to something preventing one's progress, in this case a falling away, IVP commentary on Bible Gateway¹
 - [do we fall away because following Jesus is hard?](#)

What does Jesus want us to do?

- Aligning with [Jesus](#), even into persecution and hatred
 - persecutors do so because they have failed to align with Jesus, have not known the Father ([v.21](#)) "the one who sent me"
- Jewish persecution - our persecution?
 - principles for us from the specifics of that particular persecution...
- "There may be trouble ahead" - do we just avoid that trouble? What is our reaction to this warning?
 - implicit question is "do you love me, or do you love something else/someone else more?" (eg peace, safety, being part of the (Jewish) community)
 - do we love Jesus enough that people will hate us for it?
- "No servant is greater than his master" - are we eliciting the same reaction from people as Jesus did?