



TOUGH TIMES

SUDDENLY ALONE

(JOHN 16:32-33)

1 READ THE SCRIPTURE

The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

-John 16: 32-33

2 CHOOSE AN IMAGE

Scattered. Tossed away, pushed aside, or left behind. When you find yourself unexpectedly alone, what's your response? Hurt? Anger? Desperation? Fear? Which of these images reminds you of a time in your life when you felt "scattered"?

3 REFLECT

Ask some or all of these questions, depending on your context and timeframe

- Tell about the image you chose, and why it represents a "scattered" time in your life—what happened, and how did you sense Jesus being with you?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus has conquered the world? What difference, if any, does that make in how you experience life's scattering moments? What would you add to your image to show that?
- Jesus intends his disciples to know peace in the face of persecution—he points to aloneness as greater distress. How has that been true in your life?
- If you were to pray right now for yourself or another person who's experiencing "scattered," what would you pray? Pause to offer that prayer...