

## The King's Messengers Under Fire

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Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The King and His Glory / Persecution / Matthew 10:16–23

In Matthew 10:16–23, Jesus prepares His messengers for inevitable hostility by calling them to wise discernment, Spirit-dependent confidence, and faithful endurance to the end.

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## Family Discipleship Questions

### Young children (2-5)

Main Idea for Parents to Reinforce: “Jesus is our Shepherd, and He takes care of us.”

#### Questions:

Who takes care of sheep? (shepherds)

Who is our Shepherd? (Jesus)

Are sheep strong or do they need help?

Do we need Jesus to help us?

Jesus said we are like sheep. Are sheep safe by themselves?

Who keeps us safe?

Can you say this with me: “Jesus is our Shepherd, and He takes care of us.”

### Ages 6–12

Main Idea: “Following Jesus is difficult, but we must be wise, kind, and faithful.”

#### Questions:

Jesus said we are like sheep among wolves, what do you think that means?

Why might people not like Christians?

What does it mean to be: “wise like a serpent” and “gentle like a dove”?

Where might you face pressure for your faith? With your friends?

What should you do if someone makes fun of you for believing in Jesus?

Why is it important to remember that Jesus is always with you?

What is one way you can show both truth and kindness this week?

## Teens

Main Idea: “Faithfulness to Christ requires courage, wisdom, and endurance in a hostile culture.”

### Questions:

Why do you think Jesus warns His disciples about opposition instead of protecting them from it?

Where do you see hostility toward Christians today?

The sermon emphasized that the real battle is spiritual, not political: Do you agree? Why or why not?

Which is harder for you personally: Being bold with truth? Or being gentle and patient with people?

How can you avoid: Compromising truth to fit in? Becoming harsh or argumentative?

Have you ever stayed silent about your faith to avoid conflict?

What was driving that decision?