



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: PERSECUTION AND THE CHRISTIAN WALK

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus promised that opposition and persecution are inevitable for those who follow Him.
2. Not all suffering is persecution; some hardship comes from living in a broken world or making unwise choices.
3. Persecution often results from our new nature in Christ, our association with Jesus, and our exposure of evil.
4. Jesus is not naive about our suffering and promises to be with us through it.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Jesus' warning about persecution in John 15:18-25 challenge or encourage you?
2. Have you ever experienced opposition or persecution because of your faith? Share your experience.
3. How can we distinguish between general suffering and persecution for our faith?
4. Jesus says the world will hate believers because they are "not of the world" (John 15:19). What does this mean practically in our daily lives?

5. How can we balance loving our neighbors while still standing firm in our convictions, even when it might lead to opposition?
6. The sermon mentions that if we never experience persecution, we might not be living our faith boldly enough. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
7. How can we prepare ourselves and others for potential persecution, as Corrie Ten Boom suggested?
8. In what ways can persecution actually strengthen our faith and witness?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify an area where you might be compromising your faith to avoid opposition. Pray for courage to stand firm.
2. Practice sharing your faith or discussing your beliefs with a non-believing friend or family member in a loving, respectful manner.
3. Research and pray for Christians facing persecution in other parts of the world.
4. Reflect on Romans 8:31-39. Memorize a verse that encourages you in the face of potential persecution.
5. Look for opportunities to expose evil or stand for truth in your workplace, school, or community this week.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His faithfulness in the midst of persecution. Ask for courage to live boldly for Christ and wisdom to navigate opposition with grace and love.