



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: PERSECUTION AND THE CHRISTIAN WALK

Small Group Guide: A New Day

Opening Discussion:

1. Share a time when you felt hopeless but later discovered there was hope. How did your perspective change?

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus promised the disciples that their mourning would turn to joy.
2. The resurrection of Jesus changes everything and is the foundation of our hope.
3. Our relationship with Jesus brings us into a new relationship with the Father.
4. In this world we will have trouble, but Jesus has overcome the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. The disciples struggled to believe Jesus had risen, even after being told. Why do you think it was so difficult for them to believe? How does this relate to our own struggles with faith?
2. Jesus said, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." How does this promise apply to our lives today?
3. Discuss the significance of having direct access to the Father through Jesus. How does this change our approach to prayer and our relationship with God?

4. The sermon mentioned viewing life's challenges like watching a game you know your team has already won. How can this perspective impact how we face difficulties?
5. What does it mean practically to find our peace and hope in Jesus rather than in changing circumstances?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, when facing a challenge, pause and remind yourself that Jesus has overcome the world. How might this change your response?
2. Practice approaching God in prayer, recognizing the direct access you have through Jesus. Share your experience with the group next time.
3. Identify an area of your life where you're struggling to have hope. Commit to meditating on a promise from Scripture related to that situation.
4. Look for opportunities to encourage someone else with the hope we have in Christ, especially if they're going through a difficult time.

Closing Reflection:

Take a few moments of silence for each person to reflect on this question: "What area of my life do I need to surrender to Jesus' promise that He has overcome the world?"

Close in prayer, thanking God for the hope we have in Christ and asking for His help to live in light of that hope.