



GOSPEL IN CULTURE

Sermon Discussion Curriculum - Gospel in Culture – Persecuted Church – May 22, 2022

Helpful Resources

Check out one of these helpful resources:

1) *The Voice of the Martyrs* - <https://www.persecution.com/>

2) *Write a Letter to Charity in Nigeria* – <https://bit.ly/39WFT3I>

Allow God to speak to you through His written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connections and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!



KNOW:

- Share about a time that you suffered, for your faith, and what you learned about your faith. How did this time shape you as a follower of Jesus?
- What ridicule or persecution have you or someone you know endured?
- How familiar are you with the persecution of Christians around the world? Is this a reality you think about/pray about often or does it feel more like a distant problem?
- What was one new thing you learned about persecution from the teaching this week?
- When might you find it most difficult to be merciful? What is an example from your own life where you were shown mercy (or you showed someone mercy)?
- Read Hebrews 11:32-34. We read about Gideon, Samson, David, and many more. They were all strong men of God but had times of weakness. Where are you weak right now? Where are you struggling?



GROW:

- Our world is obsessed with strength. We have stores dedicated to physical fitness. The gym is a huge industry. Thinking about your spiritual life, where are you growing even though you might be weak?
- Read Hebrews 11:35-38. We move to this sudden shift to the theme of torture. When you think about the saints before us being tortured, how does that make you feel about your freedom?
- Why does God not always deliver those who trust in Him?
- Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. Why should Christians not only anticipate suffering and persecution, but also rejoice in it. What is the basis of this rejoicing? What must be true of our hearts for us to have this attitude?
- Read Hebrews 12:1-2. How does the faith of those who have gone before us, and the faithfulness of Jesus strengthen believers to endure persecution?
- How should Christians respond when we face ridicule or persecution for our faith?
- Revelation 2 says, "Do not fear what you are about to suffer." How does this give you comfort knowing suffering is to come?



SHOW:

- How do you demonstrate what it means to live fully for Jesus Christ, no matter what it may cost?
- Go to <https://www.icommittoprayer.com/requests/> Together as a group – read some of the prayer requests from believers around the globe and close your group time praying together for our persecuted brothers and sisters.
- As believers, how should we respond to those who persecute us? For help, read Matthew 5:44 and Romans 12:14. Spend a few minutes as a group praying for persecuted Christians around the world. For more specific info, you can visit The Voice of the Martyrs website at www.persecution.com.
- Write a letter to Charity and her family. They were part of a village in Nigeria attacked by Boko Haram. Now they stand for Jesus! <https://bit.ly/39WFT3l>