



Blessed

Week 8: Blessed are those who are Persecuted.

CCV Groups Discussion Guide

OPENING QUESTION:

Have you ever had a moment where your faith led to an awkward or funny situation, like turning down an invitation to something you knew wasn't right for you? How did you navigate it, and did it give you a good story to tell later?

GROUPS VIDEO GUIDE

READ:

[2 Tim 3:12](#)

[Matthew 5:10 \(NIV\)](#)

[Matthew 5:10 \(NLT\)](#)

[Matthew 5:10 \(MSG\)](#)

[Matthew 5:11-12](#)

[1 Peter 1:7](#)

DISCUSS:

1. Can you share a personal experience where you felt challenged or misunderstood because of your faith? How did you handle it, and what did you learn from the experience?
2. According to Matthew 5:10 and 2 Timothy 3:12, how does the Bible describe the relationship between living a godly life and facing persecution?
3. In what ways can we support each other as a community when facing persecution or challenges because of our faith? How can we create an environment that encourages resilience and growth?
4. What role does forgiveness play in dealing with persecution?

GROUP CHALLENGE:

Share a place or situation where you could take a firmer stand for Jesus - what can you do this week to take steps to improve in this area?

TAKE HOME QUESTIONS:

Table Talk (a question to ask your family or friends over a meal): Is there anyone we need to pray for who is putting pressure on our faith?

Water Cooler (a question to ask at work): Who do you think are the most persecuted people in the world right now?

PRAYER: (Read this over the group)

John Wesley was an influential 18th-century preacher and theologian who often faced persecution for his bold proclamation of the Gospel. His covenant prayer embodies a deep commitment to living out our faith with courage and dedication.

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer:

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things
To your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
You are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven.

Amen.

SCRIPTURES:

- **John 15:20**, “Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.”
- **Acts 14:22**, “strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. ‘We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,’ they said.”
- **Romans 8:17**, “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”
- **1 Peter 4:14**, “If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”
- **Matthew 10:22**, “You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”
- **2 Corinthians 4:8–10**, “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”