**Life Team Bible Study**

For the week of June 3 – Beatitudes wk 7 – Persecution

**HANG**

* Have you ever been singled out negatively or picked on? Explain?
* What is our default response to being singled out or picked on?
* Have you ever been singled out for being a Christian? How’d you feel?
* How has your Christian faith affected your relationship w/non-believers?
* Do know someone who has gone through persecution for Christ?

**HEAR**

We finish our study on the “blessings” - \*\* Do you have them memorized?

**Matthew 5:3-11**

* Can you explain how each of the beatitudes build upon each other?
* Was there anything that stood out to you or caught your attention from Sunday’s sermon? What was it and why?

**Let’s focus on the last one** **– Persecution**

**Matthew 5:10-12, Hebrews 11:35-38**

* What are ways the early church was persecuted?
* What are way Christians have been persecuted over the ages?
* What are ways Christians are currently persecuted - globally?

**In 21st century - 150,000 Christians were killed each year**

* Roughly 1,100,000 Christians were martyred worldwide, between 2000-2010

**Today more than 60 countries attack and persecute Christians**

320 killed every month (1 every 6 minutes killed) / 214 churches destroyed each month / 722 acts of violence a month (imprisoned, raped, beaten, abducted, homes burned down, tortured, mutilated) / 215 million persecuted daily. / Persecution had been greater the last 30 yrs than the first 300 yrs.

* Why do you think Christians face so much persecution? (BTW – they are persecuted more than any other religion on the face of the earth)

**2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:20, 1 Peter 4:12-14**

* According to these verses what are the reasons we will be persecuted?
* Understanding living in America is different than most of the world, how might Christians be persecuted in America?
* What are the most common types of persecution we face?
* Can you share a time when you were persecuted for your faith?
* What type of persecutions do you think Christians will face in the future?

**Matthew 24:13, 2Tim. 2:12**

* What do these verses tell us to do about persecution? **Endure!**

**James 1:2-4, I Peter 5:10**

* What does persecution produce in us according to - James 1:2-4
* How can persecution be a blessing?
* In 1 Peter 5:10, what 4 things happen after persecution for Christ sake?

**After you’ve suffered Christ himself will:**

1. Restore (complete you) 2. Confirm (secure you)

3. Strengthen (make you stronger) 4. established (foundation, grounded)

**How to live a world of Christin persecution - Philippines 1:15-28**

1. **Realize it’s reality – 1:15-18, 29**

Accept that doing good will sometimes result in suffering

* Is it hard for you to know that you will suffer in this life for God? Why?

1. **Pray for those persecuted - 1:19**

* Why do you think it is important to know about our Christian brothers and sister suffering globally?
* How can we encourage the persecuted and those feeling beat down?

1. **Seek to honor Jesus – 1:20**

* How can we honor God in the middle of persecution?

1. **Accept your mission – 1:21-26**

* What is Paul saying about living or dying in this passage?

1. **Live a life of holiness faithfully – 1:27**

* How would you define - “conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ”? We talked about this Sunday - Gentleness, respect, patience, love, grace w/ others – we live it out

1. **Don’t live in fear – 1:28**
2. **Trust that God will deal with them – 1:28**

* How is it comforting to know that God will take care of you and deal with those who persecute you? What is our role?

**HANG**

* What are the most common types of persecution we face?
* Can you share a time when you were persecuted for your faith?
* Pray for the persecuted church – here and globally

**HOME**

Look up each of the following websites, read and pray about how you can be a part of helping the global persecuted church.

[www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com) / [www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org)

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4. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your mission – 1:21-26**
5. **Live a life \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ faithfully – 1:27**
6. **Don’t live \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – 1:28**
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