

Alternate Routes

Persecuted (Week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Christlikeness comes through healthy conflict as we compassionately speak the truth in love.

Key Scriptures

You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. Matthew 7:13-14 NLT

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Matthew 5:10 CSB

"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me. When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Matthew 10:16-20 NLT

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. "You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:10-12 CSB

Persecution is an opportunity to tell people about Christ.

Persecution is an opportunity to receive God's blessing.

Persecution is an opportunity to be thankful and praise God.

1. Pray that the words and actions of the persecuted will lead people to Christ.
2. Pray for the persecuted to surrender to the Holy Spirit and that God will give them the right words to speak.
3. Pray for the persecuted to be reminded of God's blessings and the great reward in heaven.
4. Pray for the persecuted to find things to be thankful and praise God for.

Start talking.

- What is your favorite Denver-area sports team?
- What country would you like to visit?
- Have you ever done a short-term mission trip? How did it go?

Start thinking.

- Why are we so attracted to comfort? Why does suffering bother us?
- Read Matthew 10:16-20. Can it really be possible not to worry about anything, even being arrested? How can we do it?
- Why do we have such a hard time with rejoicing when hard things happen?

Start sharing.

- Have you ever experienced persecution? Have you met Christians who've experienced it?
- If tomorrow you woke up with the things you've thanked God for today, what would you have?
- Can you share a time when you've experienced joy in difficult moments? When and how did it happen?

Start doing.

- Would you commit to taking time this week and during the group to pray for persecuted Christians?
- Do you ever shy away from doing or saying what's right out of fear of the consequences that might come? How can you be bold this week?
- How can you live a life of thankfulness this week?