



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 8 – *THE PERSECUTED*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 5:10-12, 5:43, 6:10, 16:25, John 15:20, Romans 5:3, Galatians 5:11, 1 Corinthians 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:12

KEY NOTES

The definition of persecution: _____

The cause of persecution: _____

The blessings of persecution: _____

The biblical response to persecution:

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DIGGING DEEPER

1. When you hear the word “persecuted”, what comes to mind?
2. It’s likely we’ll never lose our lives for our faith and faithfulness to Christ but what are some things we might lose as we follow Jesus?
3. Is it possible to live a righteous life, as biblically defined, and not experience opposition? What kind of compromises might we have to make for that to happen?
4. Galatians 5:11 says the cross is offensive. What are some of the consequences if we seek to share the Gospel and remove any possible offense?
5. Jesus said the blessing of being persecuted is the kingdom of heaven. Why is eternity in heaven worth any hardship or loss we may suffer while on earth?
6. Jesus calls us to rejoice and be glad when we are persecuted. Why is that so hard? Why is it so necessary?
7. In Matthew 5:43, Jesus directs us to pray for those who persecute us. Why is that so hard? Why is that so necessary?
8. 1 Corinthians 4:12 says our response to persecution is to endure it. What keeps you going when you’re paying for following Jesus?
9. Jesus said in John 16:33 that we would have trouble in the world but that we would have peace in him. Amid challenges to our faith walk, how can we experience his peace?