



get started

What does persecution mean? In what ways do you see people persecuted around the world?

reflect

Have you ever been persecuted, ridiculed, or oppressed? If yes, what was the cause of the suffering? If no, do you know anyone personally who has gone through persecution? What was the cause of their suffering?

dig

1. Read Matthew 5:1-12. What does Jesus say about those who suffer?
2. What types of persecution can those following Jesus expect?
3. What should our reaction to persecution for following Jesus be?
4. Jesus says that those who are persecuted for righteousness are “blessed.” What does this mean?
5. What hope to the “blessed / persecuted” have for the future?

breakout

1. Jesus says that persecution is a natural result of following Him, and we should expect it. We aren't currently seeing the same intensity of persecution in the United States that Christians are experiencing around the world. Take time now, to pray for those experiencing suffering for the Gospel around the world.
 2. Pray and thank God for the opportunities we have as Christians in America to follow Jesus without widespread persecution.
 3. Discuss ways you can take advantage of the current state of persecution in America, to go be the church God highlights in the beatitudes.
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