

**Getting into Our Lives** .....Group time - 20 minutes

1. What are the different forms of persecution present in our world today?  
What about in the United States?
2. Why are we often surprised by the persecution or suffering of Christians?  
What are our natural responses and how do they need to change?
3. If we respond to any form of persecution with joy, faith and good works,  
how will it change us? How will it impact our church and others we know?

**Getting Out the Gospel** .....Group time - 5 minutes

What scares you the most about sharing the good news of Jesus with your lost friends, coworkers, neighbors, and family?

What, from this study, can help you overcome that fear?

**Getting into Prayer** .....Group time - 10 minutes

**Reach:** “Our Great Defender, help us to share the good news of Jesus with the lost, no matter the inconveniences or even painful consequences.”

**Grow:** “Strengthen our ability to stand for You, by increasing our love and dependence upon You, and our excitement for our true home.”

**Empower:** “Grant us the joy of sharing in Christ’s sufferings and help us to model this for the next generation of believers.”

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***Tested by Fire***  
***Matthew 5:10-12***

**Persecution: Why?**

**Persecution: How?**

**Persecution: Our Response?**

**Persecution: Our Reward?**

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***I never knew:***

***I need to change:***

***I should share:***

# GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of October 29, 2017

## Getting Started .....Group time - 15 minutes

1. What's your favorite foreign country you've visited?
2. How do you prepare yourself for foreign travel? What would you do differently if you discovered that region was hostile?
3. What's the most difficult thing you've endured for someone you love?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

## Getting into God's Word .....Group time - 40 minutes

### Read Matthew 5:10-12

1. Why are God's citizens persecuted? What does this say about them?  
See also: 2 Timothy 3:12

2. This may be the most upside down sounding statement of all! How can we view persecution as a blessing? See also: Philipians 1:29

3. What forms of persecution does Jesus talk about?

4. What does Jesus say is the appropriate response to this reviling and persecution? Do you think that's really possible? How?

5. What do God's citizens have to look forward to? How does that make up for suffering now?

### Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

6. Why does Peter say we should rejoice?

7. For what reasons should we not suffer?

8. How is God glorified when His people are persecuted and insulted?

9. What do suffering Christians need to do? How does this fly in the face of the world's ideas of suffering and persecution?