



GraceStudents

Discussion Questions:

March 29 - #blessed are the persecuted

These questions are designed for students to discuss with their families and write their responses in a journal to reflect on how God spoke to them during the online worship experience. Encourage students to be creative and share their responses with other students on social media or other online platforms.

Read Matthew 5:10-12

1. Have you ever been insulted, rejected, or made fun of because you are a Christian? What happened and how did you feel?
2. What does “persecution” mean? Define it in your own words.
3. What does it mean to “suffer well?” How can we be blessed (happy) in the midst of persecution or false accusations? What does Jesus say we have to look forward to?
4. Do you know of someone who has suffered well? How did they point others to Jesus during a difficult time?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16

5. Peter tells us not to be surprised when we face persecution and suffering. What does that indicate about the culture in Biblical times? Do you see some of the same patterns and tendencies in our world today?
6. If you are being insulted, rejected or made fun of because of your faith, what does that say about your life? Does that mean you are representing Jesus well? Explain.
7. How does prayer and reading Scripture help you when you are suffering?
8. If you suffer for doing something wrong, how is that different than suffering because of your faith in Jesus?

Read Hebrews 11:8-10

9. Do you think Abraham's choice to follow God was easy? What did he give up? Do you think people were upset with him or made fun of him?

10. How does the desire for comfort hinder you from following Jesus wholeheartedly?

11. Can you think of some other people in Scripture who suffered persecution because of their faith? Why do you think they were able to persevere?

12. Verse 10 says, "*For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*" What does that mean and how does that apply to our faith today?

13. How can you use social media during this season to share God's promises with others? Tag @discovergrace and other students in your posts.

14. Think about your relationship with Jesus. Do you love Him enough to suffer for Him? Have you experienced His goodness and faithfulness in such a way that you are willing to give up everything for Him? If not, then use this season of quarantine as an opportunity to get to know Him. You won't regret it!

Challenge: Our brothers and sisters in other countries suffer greatly for their faith. Open Doors USA is a community of Christians who come together to support persecuted believers in more than 60 countries. If you would like to know more and learn how you can pray for them, visit [opendoorsusa.org](https://www.opendoorsusa.org).