



Bible Studies

Persecution Study One



*But as for me,
I will look to
the Lord. I will
wait for the God
of my salvation;
my God will
hear me.*

Micah 7:7

What is persecution?

Persecute

- To oppress or harass with ill-treatment, especially because of race, religion, gender or beliefs – that differ from those of the persecutor.
- To annoy persistently; bother.

Persecution is on the rise – all around the world in diverse cultures under many different political and religious ideologies Christians are facing persecution – from severe ill-treatment and imprisonment to persistent minor harassment.

Meet Rahmet from Ethiopia

Rahmet came to know the Lord Jesus when she was just 15 years old. “A Christian man took me to another town to see the ‘Jesus’ film”; Rahmet explains. “I started to weep when I saw how Jesus suffered for my sins.”

But when Rahmet’s Muslim family found out about her new faith, they were enraged and forced her out of her family’s home. She was also rejected by her friends.

“My father said that if I wanted to follow Jesus, I’d have to leave the house,” Rahmet laments

Rahmet now lives with a Christian family however, and is doing well at school.

Look up and discuss the following Scriptures:

What did Jesus say about Persecution?

- Matthew 24:9, John 16:33
- Matthew 5:10 – 12 Persecuted for living right – what is our attitude to be?
- Matthew 13:21 Mark 4:17 – the need for deep roots! What is the effect of persecution on those who have shallow roots? How can Christians in general best prepare for persecution?



Rahmet



An Uzbek Woman

“He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”

2 Cor 1:10-11

Paul – from persecutor to persecuted. Take a look at Paul’s life

- Acts 22:4, Galatians 1:13 – Paul the Persecutor
- Acts 13:50 Persecution often is stirred up by local people
- 2 Cor 11: 23-28 Paul lists the trouble and persecution he has been through.
- 2 Tim 2:8-13 What was Paul’s motivation?

Should we expect persecution?

- Read 2 Timothy 3:12. Is this true in our culture? Discuss this in your group.

Consider Sarah from Uzbekistan

- Established a church of 300 through her bold witness
- Kidnapped by a Muslim and forced to marry him
- Forbidden to see Christians
- Pelted with stones in streets

Sarah was the first person in her hometown to become a Christian. Boldly, she shared her faith with friends and neighbours and a church of 300 was soon established. However, after spates of heavy persecution many of the new converts were too frightened to attend church.

Now Sarah is also unable to attend as she was kidnapped by a Muslim and forced into marriage. She is forbidden to visit her Christian friends, and on many occasions she has been pelted with stones when walking through the streets. “I often consider leaving my husband,” confides Sarah, “but I still hope he will become a believer so we can serve the Lord together.”

What can we do to help women like Sarah and Rahmet?

Pray – your prayers are powerful and really make a difference. Consider praying as a group for women like these. We can provide you with special prayer information every second month to fuel your prayers.

Write letters – to those who need our encouragement. Read the latest Open Doors Prayer and Writing Guide for details of our current writing campaign.

Give – by becoming a supporter of Open Doors you can assist in practical ways those who are persecuted for their faith. Contact Open Doors for more details

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