

Stand Firm: Standing Firm When Suffering for Jesus
Sermon # 16, 1 Peter 4:12-19

Main Point: *Stand firm when you suffer for Jesus, because God is with you.*

Getting to Know You

1. Has anyone in the group ever experienced some form of persecution for your faith? What happened?

Getting into the Book

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

2. Leader: in advance of your meeting please visit *The Voice of the Martyrs* website at www.persecution.com to familiarize yourself with the persecution of Christians in the world. Present some of what you found to the group and ask, "Is it surprising to you that there is so much persecution of Christians in the world? Why or why not?"
3. What did Jesus say in John 15:18-20 about persecution?
4. What do verses 13 and 14 say about why it is possible for a Christian to rejoice and consider themselves blessed for being persecuted? See also Matthew 5:11-12 and Acts 5:41.
5. Referring to 4:16, what examples from the world can you think of where people are suffering because they are Christians? After talking about a few examples, pause and have someone in the group pray for persecuted Christians (Hebrews 13:3).
6. According to 4:17-18 what is another purpose God has for persecution? (Leader: let the group answer before asking part two of this question) How does persecution purify the Church?
7. What does 4:19 say we should do when facing persecution? What are some good reasons for trusting God through suffering for His name?

Getting Out There

8. Analyze this statement: "if you aren't experiencing some type of persecution you aren't living for Jesus."
9. How does having the perspectives on persecution as taught in this passage encourage you to be bolder for Christ?

Pray

Take time to pray for the distribution of Bibles we purchased through *Voice of the Martyrs*. Pray for God's protection in getting the Bibles to their destination. Pray for the persecuted Christians who receive the Bibles to be strengthened in their faith.