

# Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 10 | A Call To Forgive (Days 59–65)

SERMON FOCUS: Facing Persecution



## Life Group Schedule

**PREP** Review the weekend service online. Read through each Scripture reference prayerfully. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you any correction you need to make around this week's topic. Be willing to be open, humble, and honest with your group about what He is showing you.

**10 MIN** Log In, chat, check on everybody! Remember, be a facilitator of conversation, not a preacher! Talk little, listen more, and have fun! Keep in mind we do this for community and for each of us to grow closer in our relationships with God.

**15 MIN** ICE BREAKER: Several ice breaker game suggestions can be located at [BIT.LY/NLCLIFEGROUP\\_ICEBREAKERS](https://bit.ly/NLCLIFEGROUP_ICEBREAKERS). Take your pick, and enjoy the game together!

**TRANSITION: SPEND SOME TIME IN WORSHIP & PRAYER**

### 30-45 MIN | FACING PERSECUTION

#### MATTHEW 5:10-12

**Q1.** Share a time from your past when you were being persecuted. What did you have to endure? How did you handle it?

- The world is broken by sin. Sin breaks relationships.

#### JOHN 16:33; 2 TIMOTHY 3: 1-4

- God tells us not to be surprised when people are mean, pushy, angry, controlling, or manipulative.

**Q2.** What does virtual harassment look like?

- Satan wants to bully you, so that you show weakness in the world.

**Q3.** What is the purpose of persecution? List some of the ways we see persecution in this world.

- When someone tries to exert power over you, so you respond in weakness.
- The deepest pain comes when you say, “I am going to follow Jesus,” and Satan circles you and goes, “Now you are in opposition to me.”
  - › Satan wants you to believe that Christians are the real problem.

**JOHN 15: 19-20**

## **PRINCIPLES FROM JESUS ON DEALING WITH PERSECUTION**

### 1. I Must Know The Source Behind It All

**Q4.** When does Satan want to attack us? (When are you most vulnerable?)

- There is a spiritual force behind it, so recognize the root of the opposition.

**EPHESIANS 6:12**

- Remember to pray because sometimes it’s a spiritual attack.

**Q5.** Can you share a time when you recognized that your bully was not the real problem? How was that person being used by Satan?

- When people like you for no reason, we call that “the favor of God.” When people oppose you for no reason, we call that “a spiritual attack.”
  - › There is a force behind the source.
  - › We are not fighting against human beings; we are fighting against spiritual wicked forces.
- Satan can use anybody in any way if they don’t know the Lord.

### 2. Never Forget Who You Are!

**Q6.** What is your identity?

- When opposition comes, Satan wants to alter your identity.
- You are a son or daughter of the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- You are a part of God’s family.

**Q7.** In what ways do you question yourself? What insecurities do you have that can be attacked?

- You were created in the image of God! God loves you, He made you for a purpose, and He has a plan for your life.
  - › Remember who you are: you’re a child of God.
  - › Don’t let Satan rob you of this.

**Q8.** What are some practical and spiritual ways we can deal with persecution?

- When you or your family are going through something, don’t *just* be practical, and don’t *just* be emotional. Be led by the Holy Spirit.

- Bring the word of God into battle with you.
  - › This is an identity battle—what God says about us. Do not give up your identity.
  - › It is powerful when you can stand up and say, “I know who I am.”

**1 JOHN 4:4**

3. Never Pay Back Evil For Evil

**Q9.** Share a time when you have wanted to take revenge. What did you do?

**ROMANS 12:17**

- It takes maturity and blind obedience.
  - If you wrestle a pig, you both get dirty, but only one of you enjoys it.
- Q10.** How hard is it to love your enemies? How do you do it? How can you do good to people who are opposing you?

**MATTHEW 5: 43-44**

- God will still love us in our sin.
- It does not matter what is coming at you in life; it matters what is following you in life.
- We don’t want to decide someone’s future. We shouldn’t even be where we are in life. Rather, we are here because of mercy and grace.

**TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY OVER NEEDS**

**CONFIRM OR SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT MEETING, WHETHER LIVE OR VIRTUAL**

**Leaders:** Please share your email address and cell numbers. Be available!

- For more ideas, check out [VIRTUAL LIFE GROUP PLAN](#).
- As Life Group leaders—the hands, feet and voice of Jesus—remember “CPR”:
  - › C – Check-In and Care for People at least weekly
  - › P – Pray with and for them often
  - › R – Remember Scripture. God’s Word is powerful!
- Group Participation Guideline Reminders:
  - › Do not share anything that will embarrass anyone, including your spouse.
  - › If called on you may pass on any questions you do not want to answer.
  - › Allow time for everyone to share; do not dominate the conversation.
  - › What is said in the group stays in the group. Use common sense and know when something shared is personal and should remain confidential.

**For Daily Prayer: The following linked resources can help strengthen our prayer lives**

- [Foundations, Session 4: “WHAT IS PRAYER?”](#)
- [THE LORD’S PRAYER PATTERN](#)
- [THE PRAYER OF JABEZ PRAYER PATTERN](#)
- [THE TRINITY PRAYER PATTERN](#)