

Justice Sunday

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

November 1, 2020

What does the Persecuted Church look like?

- ❶ _____ placed on 5 spheres of Christian life
- ❷ _____ against Christians and the Church
- ★ Around the world, more than _____ million Christians live in places where they experience high levels of persecution, just for following Jesus. That's 1 in _____ believers, worldwide. (6% increase from 2019)
- ★ _____ churches or Christian buildings were attacked
- ★ _____ Christians were killed for faith-related reasons. On average, that's _____ Christians killed every day for their faith.
- ★ _____ Christians were detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned.

Why should we pause and remember the Persecuted Church?

- _____ combats an “out of sight, out of mind” mentality. *Hebrews 13:3*
- Persecuted Christians around the world are part of our _____ family. *I Corinthians 12:26*
- The Persecuted Church brings a renewed challenge to the _____ of our faith and the priority of the _____ in our lives. *II Corinthians 1:5-7*

What can we do to encourage the Persecuted Church?

- ★ _____ awareness through social media.
- ★ _____ in projects. (Browse the suggested websites)
- ★ _____ regularly for the Persecuted Church.

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Discussion Guide

Questions

- *How many of you have ever faced persecution for being a follower of Jesus?*
- *Why should we expect persecution as believers?*
- *Why is it a blessing to stand up for or be persecuted for Jesus?*
- *How aware of the Persecuted Church is the typical Christian in America?*

Discuss the following verses:

2 Timothy 3:12, 1 Peter 5:9, John 16:33, Matthew 24:9

Questions

- *How is the opposition we face as Christians in America different than other Christians around the world?*
- *What are things we can do to stand with persecuted Christians around the world?*
- *What should our response be to those persecuting Christians?*

Persecuted followers of Jesus in Early Church

James - beheaded

Peter - crucified upside down

Philip - crucified

Matthew - killed by sword

Andrew - crucified, left hanging on the cross for three days

Thomas - speared to death

James the less - stoned to death

Paul – beheaded

Stephen – stoned to death

Persecuted Church Websites

OpenDoorsUSA.org

Persecution.org

Persecution.com

Worship Songs 11/1/2020

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Goodness of God: Jason Ingram

God So Loved: We The Kingdom

Is He Worthy?: Chris Tomlin

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