

## **“Blessed Are The Persecuted”**

**Start Talking:** Share about your week with others. What’s going well? What’s something we can be praying together about?

**Key Scripture: Read the following together.** *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12 NKJV*

*“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,” II Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJV*

1. What does this scripture tell me about me?
2. What does this scripture tell me about God?

**Start Sharing: Choose a question (or several) to create openness and discussion.**

Why do you think persecution often follows spiritual hunger and pursuit of righteousness?

How can we effectively combat persecution with the Word of God, as exemplified by Jesus in the wilderness? What are some scriptures we can turn to?

What are some practical ways to remain in the presence of the Holy Spirit amidst persecution and spiritual warfare?

Discuss the idea that persecution comes both because of Jesus' name and his word. How does this impact our understanding of living a Christian life?

How can we shift our perspective to view persecution as a means to become more like Jesus, rather than as a hindrance or setback?

**Start Praying: Pray together and for one another.**

*“Father, prepare our hearts to face persecution as Jesus did. Help us grow through the experience and become more like Jesus. We invite you to have your way in us. Help us to adhere to You and Your ways over our own. Amen.”*