

**Week 8**

**Happy are the  
Persecuted**

If you had to give up a favorite food, which would be the most difficult to give up?

# Sunday

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**Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Matthew 5:10**

How has living out your faith brought opposition into your life?

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How did you respond to that opposition, and would you do anything differently?

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Pray for God's courage to strengthen you during times of opposition.

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What completely safe animal inexplicably freaks you out?

# Monday

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**In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12**

Paul shares with Timothy here that anyone who follows Jesus will be persecuted. Why do you believe this is the case?

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Following Jesus will make your life better but not comfortable. In what ways has your faith challenged you outside of your comfort zone?

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Maybe today there is a tension that you are still wrestling with. Take some time to ask for God's boldness to help you with it.

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What do you miss most about your childhood?

# Tuesday

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**Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9**

Wow, this is a verse that is so upside down. Do you think it is possible to repay evil with blessing? Why or why not?

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It seems that if we are able to do this, we will inherit a blessing? What do you think that blessing is in our daily lives?

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Living this out is only possible through God's grace and strength. Write down some situations in your life where you need God's intervention and help? Why not pray today for those that have insulted you.

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# Find happy!

How many times does the word HAPPY appear in the picture below?



Answer: 22

Outside of marriage or parenthood, what was a life event or season that significantly shaped who you are today?

# Wednesday

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**We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9**

Paul (the author of the verse above) experienced hardships in so many ways. How do you think he was able to keep on going?

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Daily we face challenges that can easily knock us down. What can we do to give us the courage to stand strong through them?

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Throughout your day, take some time to become more aware of God's constant presence.

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How would you describe your natural fighting style?

# Thursday

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**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12**

It's easy to take things personal that really weigh us down. How can this verse help us to not hold onto unnecessary weights?

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How can understanding that we are in a spiritual battle help us to work through personal grievances quicker?

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We are so grateful that we already know that Jesus has won this battle. Today claim victory for anything that is weighing you down through Jesus.

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# 20 Reasons why life is wonderful

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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16. \_\_\_\_\_

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18. \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best live performance you have ever watched?

# Friday

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**You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. Matthew 5:13**

Once Jesus completes speaking about the Beatitudes, He goes straight into this verse (above). Why do you think Jesus now speaks about us being the salt?

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In what ways do you think it is possible to lose your saltiness as a Jesus follower?

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**Pray today that Jesus will continue to come into your life and transform you from the inside out so that we can continue to make a difference in this world.**

Something that really resonated with me, in today's church program.

# Saturday

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One-liner(s) to think about this week.

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Something I'd like to share with someone, this week.

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# Notes

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