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Prayers for the Persecuted Church
Discussion Guide
November 1, 2026

Read Together: Hebrews 13:3; Ephesians 6:19–20; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Corinthians 1:8–11; Matthew 26:39; Luke 6:27–31

Main Idea: We come alongside persecuted believers by praying for bold witness, trust in God's sufficient grace, strength beyond human ability, His presence and protection, and the transformation of those who persecute them.

Observation | what does the text say?

1. In Hebrews 13:3, what are believers instructed to remember about those who are imprisoned and mistreated? What does the passage say about our connection to them?
2. Across the five prayer passages, what specific requests or responses do you see? What do these teach us about our lives of faith?

Digging Deeper | what concepts does the text connect with?

3. How does Paul's request for boldness while imprisoned challenge the way we might naturally pray for someone who is suffering? What does this reveal about the priority of making Christ known?
4. How do God's sufficient grace and resurrection power connect with weakness and suffering? Why is biblical peace more than the absence of pain or danger?

Unpacking the Main Idea | what does the text mean?

5. The sermon gives us five ways to pray for persecuted believers: bold witness, trust in God's grace, power and peace, strength beyond human ability, God's presence and protection, and transformed persecutors. What does each prayer ask God to do?
6. Jesus calls His followers to love their enemies and pray for those who mistreat them. How does the gospel make this response possible, and how can the faithful witness of persecuted Christians point even their persecutors toward Christ?

Personal Application | what does the text mean for me?

7. When have you been tempted to stay quiet about your faith because of fear, discomfort, or concern about what others might think? What would it look like to ask God for boldness in that situation?
8. What is one practical way you can remember and come alongside persecuted Christians this week? How might praying for their persecutors also shape the way you respond to people who oppose or mistreat you?

Closing Prayer

Pray for persecuted believers to proclaim Christ boldly, rest in the sufficiency of God's grace, receive strength beyond themselves, know His presence and protection, and respond to their persecutors with Christlike love. Pray that those who oppose the gospel would come to know Jesus.