

Underground Church Small Group Discussion Guide

Around the world, roughly 388 million Christians face some form of persecution for following Jesus. Many of these Christians gather secretly in homes or other hidden locations because their governments or communities oppose their faith. These brave believers are often called the "underground church."

Though their circumstances may look very different from those who practice their faith in the West, we are all part of the same body of Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are called to remember and pray for our brothers and sisters who face persecution. Their stories remind us that God's presence is not limited by our circumstances and that He is with us even in the darkest places.

Relevant Scripture:

- "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." (*Hebrews 13:3*)
- "You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance." (*Psalms 32:7*)
- "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (*Matthew 18:20*)
- "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (*Matthew 5:10*)

Discussion Questions:

- Psalm 32:7 calls God our "hiding place." How do you think this promise encourages believers who must worship in secret?
- Looking at Hebrews 13:3, what does it mean to "remember" persecuted Christians? Is it more than simply thinking about them?
- What can we learn from the courage and faithfulness of Christians who continue to follow Jesus despite persecution?
- When you think about believers who risk so much to follow Jesus, what challenges or encourages you about your own faith?
- How can the example of underground Christians inspire—not discourage—your faith journey?
- How can we pray for those who persecute Christians, following Jesus' example of loving our enemies?

Prayer Challenge:

- Choose a different country each day this week and pray for underground believers in that nation.