

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. As a child, did you believe in God?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Read John 15:20. According to this verse, what can we expect from the world?
 - a. What did the persecution of Jesus include?
 - b. Have you ever experienced persecution for your faith that made you fear for your life?
3. Read Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 22:20. According to these verses, who was describe the character of Saul (Paul) at the time of Stephen's death?
 - a. Have you ever known anyone who hated the church and Christians like Saul?
4. According to Acts 11:19-21, what was the result of persecution and the believers being scattered?
 - a. What do these verses say about how God can use circumstances in your life?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:10. Why does Paul see his weakness as strength?
 - a. Read the verses before and after this verse to get some context. Do you delight in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties?

- b. Do you think you should and how can you do that?
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6. Read Matthew 5:44. What does Jesus tell us to do to those who persecute us?
 - a. What does that kind of prayer look like?

 - b. Share with your group how you need to pray for those that persecute you.

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- “You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you.” - C. S. Lewis
- Persecution may push you, but God will use you.
- On the other side of Satan’s persecution is God’s redemption.
- Obedience in the face of persecution is a choice.
- God will see you through it.