

BEATITUDES

AN 8-WEEK STUDY GUIDE

PERSECUTED
PERSECUTED
PERSECUTED
PERSECUTED
PERSECUTED

**BLESSED ARE
THOSE WHO ARE
PERSECUTED BECAUSE
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEIRS IS THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

STUDY QUESTIONS

Play the “*The Beatitudes: Persecuted*” video lesson.

1. In the video lesson, Brian made the statement, “It really should be no surprise to any Christian who is following Jesus closely, that we are going to suffer some sort of persecution as we are living as Jesus called us to live.” What causes you to agree or disagree with his statement?

2. Read *John 15:18-25*, *James 1:2-4*, *1 Peter 2:19-24*, and *1 Peter 4:12-19*. What similarities do you notice between these passages and *Matthew 5:10-12*?

STUDY QUESTIONS

3. How might suffering for Christ strengthen your faith? How does it increase your desire to share the gospel?

4. How would your life be better and spiritually stronger if you were able to better endure seasons of difficulty and suffering?

STUDY QUESTIONS

5. Jesus refers to persecution for the sake of righteousness as a blessing. How do you think His original listeners felt about His statement? Now, how do you personally feel about this statement? What makes it challenging for Christians—even mature Christians—to truly accept this beatitude?

6. Jesus's overall message in the Beatitudes is that His kingdom has an "open door policy"—anyone and everyone may come to Him. How can you best explain this message to unbelievers in your circles of influence?

REFLECT

Take a few minutes to:

- Write down one the name of one person that you know who isn't a Christian yet.
- Now, write about how you could share your faith with them.
- Finally, if you're comfortable doing so, share your takeaway and life application with the group.