

Isaiah 26:3- You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! ⁴ Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.

REVIEW

Week 1- The Original Messengers

Week 2- The Original Church

Week 3- The Original Ministers

Week 4- The Original Disciples

THE PERSECUTION OF THE ORIGINALS – Week 5

PERSECUTION & SUFFERING

- We are in a battle, the first disciples faced so much persecution in various ways and went through suffering. If they did, we will too
- 2 Timothy 3:10-17
- We will have trials, persecution, struggle, and suffering at times
- We have to know Gods word
- We are called to live honorable lives, 1 Peter 2:15-17

TRIALS OF MANY KINDS

1 Peter 4:12-14- ¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God^[e] rests upon you.

- Trials can be in many different things, don't be surprised
- 2 Corinthians 1:8-10
- Things I wrestle with when I face trials of many kinds
- Romans 8:35-37

FOCUS

Philippians 4:8- ⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

Acts 16:25- ²⁵ Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

2 Timothy 2:3-³ Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

- We will be persecuted
- We are called to live honorable lives and how we respond matters
- Don't be surprised by fiery trials - God is in control
- We are called to stand on, and know the truth... be ready
- Focus on the truth and what is good, not just on the bad

CLOSE

- What are you hearing today?
- Will we live honorable lives in the face of opposition?
- Do you need to cry out to God and put your trust in his ability?
- What is your focus on?
- Do you know Jesus?

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION AND PERSONAL STUDY:

Opening Question: Have you ever been unjustly accused of something? What happened?

Main Point: *In a world that is increasingly less tolerant of biblical principles, we are called to represent Christ in how we live in all the spheres of our lives.*

Read/Tell the Story: Genesis 39:1-23 (*Joseph and Potiphar's Wife*)

Questions:

1. How did Joseph fight for the right things?
2. How do you know when to speak up and when to just remain faithful in following Jesus and let your actions speak for you?
3. How did Joseph gain favor in the eyes of the leaders of the day?
4. How do you think God is asking us to represent Him accurately in today's culture?
5. Knowing that suffering is common, and even an expectation, for Christians, does that change your perspective about our current culture? How?
6. What areas of your life do you think you are growing in the discipline of resilience?
7. How is God asking you to be bolder for Him?

Supporting Scripture: Genesis 41:38-40, James 1:2-4, Matthew 13:20-21

For more resources for this series go to: <https://bit.ly/RLcurrentseries>

