

WEEK 4

HIGH SCHOOL DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Following Jesus isn't always easy, but it's always worth it

BIBLE

Philippians 3:10, John 16:33

ABOUT THIS WEEK

The Bible tells us we'll face hardship for our faith—but it also tells us we can rejoice in it. In this message, we'll unpack what persecution looks like for students today (mockery, rejection, pressure to blend in), and how we can stand firm with courage, knowing Jesus suffered too. We'll also pray for believers around the world who are

Let's Break the Ice // Discipleship Moment Follow Up

- What's something you underestimated the difficulty of until you tried it?
- Last week we talked about unity and choosing "we" over "me". Did anyone take a step to include or reach out to someone they don't normally talk to this week?

Before We Open Our Bibles

- What stood out to you from the message today?
- Why do you think it's hard to be a Christian in today's society even though Christianity is legal in America?

Bible Study

- Read Together: As a group read Philippians 3:10 and John 16:33
 - *Telos Bible Page Numbers: Philippians 3:10 (pg 1163) // John 16:33 (pg 1053)*

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to "know Christ" in both joy and suffering?
- Have you experienced any kind of pushback for your faith?
- How can knowing that Jesus faced and promised rejection help us overcome it?
- Where do you feel the most tension in being open about your faith? Why?

Make it Real:

- If our relationship with Jesus is the most important thing about us, then why are we so easily ashamed of it? Why is it so much easier to be open about other things that don't matter as much?

Prayer

- Share prayer requests
- Pray specifically for courage to follow Jesus even when it's uncomfortable and pray for those around the world facing life-threatening persecution for their faith.

Discipleship Moment: One Bold Step

Challenge each student to pick one bold step they'll take this week for their faith. Write it down or say it aloud to the group for accountability. Follow up next week to hear how it went.