

WEEK 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Following Jesus isn't always easy,

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 // [OPTIONAL]: Discipleship Moment Follow Up

- Have you ever tried out for something or signed up for an activity and realized it wasn't as easy as you thought?
- 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 Christians get made fun of so much in today's world?

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 does knowing that Jesus had hard times help you face your own?
- What does Jesus mean when He says, "He has overcome the World?" Is that encouraging? Why or why not?
- Where do you feel tempted to hide your faith out of fear of persecution?

Make it Real:

- How could God use your courage in being open about your faith to encourage other Christians around you?

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.

[OPTIONAL]: 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.