

Theology of Persecution and Discipleship [TOPAD]

Master's Level

Course Syllabus,
Lesson Plans &
Reference Notes

Prepared by

James D. (Jim) Cunningham Ed.D.
and
Paul M.F. Estabrooks M.A.

© 01 May 2017

Welcome to TOPAD

Theology of Persecution and Discipleship

TOPAD is theological.

- TOPAD contextualizes scriptures that pertain to persecution and discipleship.
- Learners analyze *“What does this passage of scripture contribute to my understanding of ‘Truth’ about persecution?”*

TOPAD is academic.

- TOPAD expands one’s understanding of the topic by examining differing views and historical beliefs encompassing persecution and discipleship.
- Learners engage in comprehensive research that explores related texts.

TOPAD is a critical study.

- TOPAD verifies the existence of persecution within the totality of scripture.
- Learners experience transformational understanding of persecution and discipleship relevant to present-day believers.

THEOLOGY OF PERSECUTION AND DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

PRIMARY TEXTS

- Penner, Glenn. *In the Shadow of the Cross: A Biblical Theology of Persecution and Discipleship*. Bartlesville, OK: Living Sacrifice Books, 2004.
- Taylor, William D., Van der Meer, Antonia, Reimer Reg. eds. *Sorrow & Blood: Christian Mission in Contexts of Suffering, Persecution and Martyrdom*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2012.
- Ton, Josef. *Suffering, Martyrdom and Rewards in Heaven*. Wheaton, IL: Romanian Missionary Society, 2007.

SECONDARY REFERENCES

- Boyd-MacMillan, Ronald. *Faith That Endures: The Essential Guide to the Persecuted Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 2006.
- Cunningham, Scott. *Through Many Tribulations: The Theology of Persecution in Luke-Acts*. London: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
- Estabrooks, Paul and Cunningham, Jim. *Standing Strong Through the Storm: Victorious Living for Christians Facing Pressure and Persecution*. Santa Ana, CA: Open Doors International, 2004.
- Johnson, W. Darrell. *Discipleship On The Edge: An Expository Journey Through the Book of Revelation*. Vancouver, BC: Regent College Publishing, 2004.
- Ripken, Nik with Stricker, Barry. *The Insanity of Obedience: Walking With Jesus In Tough Places*. Nashville: B&H.....Publishing, 2014.
- Sauer, Christof and Howell, Richard. eds. *Suffering, Persecution and Martyrdom: Theological Reflections*. Johannesburg, South Africa: AcadSA Publishing, 2010.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES - BOOKS

- Aikman, David. *Jesus In Beijing*. Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 2003.
- Allen Jr., John L. *The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Anti-Christian Persecution*. New York: Image (Random House), 2013.
- Bell, Daniel M. Jr. *Just War as Christian Discipleship: Recentering the Tradition in the Church rather than the State*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2009.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York, NY: MacMillan Publishing Co., 1959.
- Boyd, Gregory. *God At War: The Bible & Spiritual Conflict*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- Bridges, Erich and Rankin, Jerry. *Lives Given, Not Taken: 21st Century Southern Baptist Martyrs*. Richmond, VA: International Mission Board, SBC, 2005.
- Chenoweth, Erica and Stephan, Maria J. *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011.
- Cox, Brian. *Faith-based Reconciliation: A Religious Framework for Peacemaking and Conflict*

- Resolution*. Xlibris Corporation USA (www.Xlibris.com), 2011.
- Ellis, David W. *Nothing Else To Fear: Holding fast to God in tough times*. Grand Rapids, MI: Monarch Books, 2004.
- Estabrooks, Paul and Cunningham, Jim. *Prison Power: How God Uses Imprisonment to Enlarge His Kingdom*, Mississauga, ON: Open Doors International, 1999.
- Forster, Roger. *Suffering and the Love of God: The Book of Job*. London: Push Publishing, 2006.
- Hattaway, Paul. *China's Christian Martyrs*. Grand Rapids, MI: Monarch Books, 2007.
- Ilibagiza, Immaculee, with Erwin, Steve. *Led By Faith: Rising from the Ashes of the Rwandan Genocide*. Calsbad, CA: Hay House Inc., 2008.
- Kellemen, Robert W. and Edwards, Karole A. *Beyond The Suffering: Embracing the Legacy of African American Soul Care and Spiritual Direction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
- Kraybill, Donald B., Nolt, Steven M., Weaver-Zercher, David L. *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2007.
- Ladd, George Eldon. *The Gospel Of The Kingdom: Scriptural Studies in the Kingdom of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1959.
- Larson, Catherine Claire. *As We Forgive: Stories of Reconciliation from Rwanda*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.
- Mallouhi, Christine A. *Waging Peace on Islam*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Marshall, Paul. *Their Blood Cries Out: The Worldwide Tragedy of Modern Christians Who Are Dying for Their Faith*. Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1997.
- Marshall, Paul with Gilbert, Lela and Shea, Nina. *PERSECUTED: The Global Assault on Christians*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2013.
- McDonnall, Carrie. *Facing Terror: the true story of how an American couple paid the ultimate price because of their love of Muslim people*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2005.
- Medina, Rev. Reinaldo. *The Gospel Behind Bars: The Unforgettable, Personal Account of a Minister's Thirteen Years in Castro's Prisons*. Miami, FL: J. Flores Publications, 1991.
- Metaxas, Eric. *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Inc., 2010.
- Muehlan, Eberhard, & the Shelter Now Team. *Escape From Kabul: The Dramatic Story of the Shelter Now Aid Workers Captured by the Taliban*. Sydney, Australia: Strand Publishing, 2005.
- Muller, Roland. *Honor And Shame: Unlocking the Door*. USA: Xlibris Corporation, 2000.
- Munayer, Salim J. ed. *Seeking And Pursuing Peace: the Process, the Pain, and the Product*. Jerusalem, Israel: Musalaha, 1998.
- Nemat, Marina. *Prisoner of Tehran: A Memoir*. New York, NY, Free Press, 2007.
- Newell, Marvin J. *A Martyr's Grace*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2006.

- Piper, John. *Spectacular Sins: And Their Global Purpose in the Glory of Christ*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008.
- Piper, John. *When the Darkness Will Not Lift: Doing What We Can While We Wait for God – and Joy*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2006.
- Redekop, John. *Politics Under God*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2007.
- Ripken, Nik with Stricker, Barry. *The Insanity of Obedience: Walking With Jesus In Tough Places*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014.
- Sempangi, F. Kefa. *A Distant Grief: The Real Story Behind the Martyrdom of Christians in Uganda*. Glendale, CA: Regal Books Division, G/L Publications, 1979.
- Sempangi, F. Kefa. with Melvin, Jennifer. *From the Dust: A Sequel to A Distant Grief*. Eugene, OR: WIPF & STOCK, 2008.
- Shriver, Donald W. Jr. *An Ethics for Enemies: Forgiveness in Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Sider, Ronald J. *Just Politics: A Guide For Christian Engagement*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2012.
- Sider, Ronald J. *Nonviolent Action: What Christian Ethics Demands But Most Christians Have Never Really Tried*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2015.
- Stark Rodney and Corcoran K.E. *Religious Hostility: A Global Assessment of Hatred and Terror*. Waco, TX: ISR Books, 2014.
- Stassen, Glen H. *Just Peacemaking: The New Paradigm for the Ethics of Peace and War*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 2008.
- Tieszen, Charles L. *Re-Examining Religious Persecution: Constructing a Theological Framework for Understanding Persecution*. Religious Freedom Series, Vol. 1. Johannesburg, South Africa: AcadSA Publishing, 2008.
- van Braght, J. Thielman, *Martyr's Mirror: The Story of Seventeen Centuries of Christian Martyrdom, From the Time of Christ to A.D. 1660*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 2005.
- van Wyk, Charl. *Shooting Back: The Right and Duty of Self-Defense*. Cape Town, South Africa: Christian Liberty Books, 2002.
- Washington, James M. ed. *The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King Jr.* San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1986.
- Wildmon, Rev. Donald E. *Speechless: Silencing The Christians*. Minneapolis, MN: Richard Vigilante Books, 2009.
- Woodberry, Dudley, J. ed. *From Seed to Fruit: Global Trends, Fruitful Practices, and Emerging Issues among Muslims*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2008.
- Yoder, John Howard. *The War of the Lamb: The Ethics of Nonviolence and Peacemaking*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2009.

ARTICLES

- Adeyemo, Tokunboh. "Persecution: A Permanent Feature of the Church," *Destined To Suffer: African Christians Face The Future*. Orange, CA: Open Doors, 1978, pp. 23-35.
- Datema, Dave. "Suffering by Degree," *Mission Frontiers*. Pasadena, CA: U.S. Center for World Mission, 32:1. January-February 2010, p. 19.
- Davis, K. R. "The Way of the Cross: The Foundation of a 16th C Counter Culture Theology," *Northwest Journal of Theology*, July, 1976.
- Dekker, Ted and Medearis, Carl. "Tea With Hezbollah," *Mission Frontiers*. Pasadena, CA: U.S. Center for World Mission, 32:2, March-April, 2010, pp. 11-13.
- Donovan, Vincent J. "A Unique Solution to Evil in the World," *Christianity Rediscovered Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Edition*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004, pp. 125-126.
- Klein, Joe. "Why Not Kill Dictators With Kindness," *TIME*. March 3, 2003, p.11 <http://www.time.com/time/columnist/klein/article/0,9565,428188,00.html>
- Kuzmic, Peter. "To Suffer With Our Lord: Christian responses to religious persecution," *The Brandywine Review of Faith & International Affairs*. Washington, DC: Council on Faith and International Affairs, Winter 2004/2005.
- Medearis, Carl. "Loving Bin Laden: What Does Jesus Expect us To Do?" *Mission Frontiers*. Pasadena, CA: U.S. Center for World Mission, 32:2, March-April 2010, pp.6-9.
- Penner, Glenn. "A Biblical Theology of Persecution and Discipleship", *Voice of the Martyrs-Canada*, April 18, 2008, <http://www.persecution.net/download3.htm#1>
- Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. "Global Restrictions on Religion," December 2009. <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1443/global-restrictions-on-religion>.
- Piper, John. "Filling Up The Afflictions of Christ," *Mission Frontiers*. Pasadena, CA: U.S. Center for World Mission, 32:1, January-February, pp. 12-13.
- Ripken, Nik. "Recapturing the Role of Suffering," *Mission Frontiers*. Pasadena, CA: U.S. Center for World Mission, 32:1, January-February 2010, pp. 6-9.
- Ripken, Nik, "Persecution: Normal and Expected." <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles.php/1045>
- Schirmacher, Thomas. "May a Christian Go to Court?" *May a Christian Go To Court: and Other Essays on Persecution vs. Religious Freedom* The WEA Global Issues Series, Vol. 3. Richmond, BC: World Evangelical Alliance, 2008. pp. 63-76.
- Sjogren, Bob. "The Other Side of The Cross: Suffering and the Glory of God," *Mission Frontiers*. Pasadena, CA: U.S. Center for World Mission, 32:1, January-February 2010, pp.14-15.
- Stauffer, Ethelbert. "The Anabaptist Theology of Martyrdom," *MQR*, XIX, 1945.
- Weber, Thomas and Burrowes, Robert J. "Nonviolence: An Introduction." <http://www.nonviolenceinternational.net/seasia /whatis/ book.php?style=pfv>

VISUAL MEDIA

“The Dangerous Book,” DVD. Open Doors International, 2008.

“A Journey of Forgiveness,” DVD. Open Doors International, 2009.

“As We Forgive: Can Mercy Restore What Genocide Destroyed?” DVD. Produced and Directed by Laura Waters Hinson, www.asweforgivemovie.com, 2009.

“Little Town of Bethlehem,” DVD, EthnoGraphic Media, 2010.

“Of Gods and Men” DVD. French with English Subtitles, 2010.

“The Coming Persecution of Christians in the West” DVD. John Loeffler, Worldview Weekend Tele-Productions, 2011.

Master's Level Sample 5-Day/30 Lesson Schedule Theology of Persecution and Discipleship (TOPAD)

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-9:55	1. Introduction	7. Isaiah The Suffering Servant	13. Persecution in the Book of Acts (Part 2)	19. Presentations	25. Trauma Healing/Counseling
10:00-10:55	2. Persecution: Definition Causes & Elements	8. Daniel Suffering for God's Sake	14. The Epistles of Paul and Peter (Prison Epistles)	20. Presentations	26. Theological Lessons / Principles from the Persecuted Church
10:55-11:10	Tea Break				
11:10-12:05	3. What Does Contemporary Persecution Look like?	9. Job The Purpose Of Suffering	15. Hebrews Chapters 11-13	21. Presentations	27. Contemporary Global Issues Advocacy How do we Help the Persecuted?
12:05-1:00	4. Responding to Persecution	10. Theodicy The Problem and Source of Evil	16. Revelation The Overcomers	22. Presentations	28. Non-Violence Application of Biblical Principles
1:00-2:00	LUNCH				
2:00-2:55	5. Our Enemy's Internal Tactics	11. Persecution in the Gospels	17. Guilt, Shame and Fear-Based Cultures	23. Forgiveness and Grace	29. The Church - Essence, Function and Forms
2:55-3:15	Tea Break				
3:15-4:10	6. Our Enemy's External Tactics	12. Persecution in the Book of Acts (1)	18. Martyrdom, Suffering and Historical Persecution	24. Perseverance and Encouragement	30. Crowns and Eternal Rewards
4:15-5:00	Daily Wrap Up Discussion Q&A	Daily Wrap Up Discussion Q&A	Daily Wrap Up Discussion Q&A	Daily Wrap Up Discussion Q&A	Daily Wrap Up Discussion Q&A

Additional Texts/pdfs	Taylor – Sorrow & Blood	Penner – Shadow of the Cross	Ton – Suffering, & Rewards
“A Cross-Centered Gospel Requires Cross-Carrying Messengers” – Penner			
DAY 1 – SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION – BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES			
1. Introduction	Chapters 6,7,10	Chapter 1	Introduction
Pdf’s – Adeyemo, Ripkin, Tieszen; “Persecution Normal and Expected; <i>Faith That Endures</i> (FTE) - Chapters 4&5; SSTS – pp. 72-76			
2. Persecution: Definition, Causes and Elements of Persecution	Chapters 21, 22, 24, 25		
SSTS – Chapter 1;			
3. What Does Contemporary Persecution Look Like?	Chapters 1,13,26,27,28		
<i>FTE</i> – Chapters 1,2,3.			
4. Responding to Persecution	Chapter 3,36,43, 47, 60		
Pdf’s – Kusmic, Ripkin, Stassen; Non-violence Introduction; SSTS – Chapter 15; Sauer & Howell - <i>Suffering, Persecution & Martyrdom</i> - Chapter 4			
5. Enemy’s Internal Tactics	Chapter 35, 38		
Pdf – Datema			
6. Enemy’s External Tactics	Chapter 28,29,31,33,34		
Boyd – <i>God At War</i>			
DAY 2 – OT/NT PERSPECTIVES OF PERSECUTION			
7. Isaiah: The Suffering Servant	Chapter 9		Chapter 1
SSTS – Chapter 13			
8. Daniel: Suffering for God’s Sake			Chapter 2
9. Job: The Purpose of Suffering			Chapter 3
Forster – <i>Suffering and the Love of God</i>			
10. Theodicy – The Problem and Source of Evil	Chapter 16		p.292, p.427
Pdf’s – Dau, Donovan, Hille			
11. Persecution in the Gospels	Chapter 8, 14		
12. Persecution in the Book of Acts – Part 1	Chapter 2, 13	Chapter 3	
Cunningham – <i>Through Many Tribulation</i> – Chapter 3			
DAY 3 – ISSUES RELATED TO PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING			
13. Persecution in the Book of Acts – Part 2			Chapter 6
14. The Epistles of Paul and Peter (Prison Epistles)	Chapter 15 & 39	Chapter 4	Chapter 7 & 9

Pdf – <i>Preparing for Prison</i>			
Pdf – Piper			
15. Hebrews: Chapters 11-13			Chapter 8
16. Revelation: The Overcomers	Chapter 17		Chapter 10
Johnson – <i>Discipleship on the Edge</i>			
17. Guilt/Shame/Fear Based Cultures			
Pdf - Roland Muller – <i>Honor & Shame</i>			
18. Martyrdom, Suffering and Persecution	Chapter 4, 5,23, 30,32	Chapter 2	Chapter 5
Pdf – Westpetal			
DAY 4 – THE WAY OF THE CROSS			
19. Presentations			
20. Presentations			
21. Presentations			
22. Presentations			
23. Forgiveness and Grace			
SSTS – Chapter 12; Pdf – Howell			
24. Perseverance and Encouragement			
SSTS – Chapter 11; Pdf - Adiwardana			
DAY 5 – CONTEMPORARY APPLICATIONS OF SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION			
25. Trauma Healing/Counseling	Chapter 61, 62		
Pdf – <i>Healing the Wounds of Trauma</i> – Hill			
26. Theological Lessons / Principles from the Persecuted Church	Chapter 57		
FTE – Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14			
27. Contemporary Global Issues / Advocacy How do we help the Persecuted?			
FTE – Chapters 6,7,8			
28. Non-violence Application of Biblical Principles			
Pdf – Klein			
29. The Church: Essence, Function, Forms			
SSTS – pp. 307-315			
27. Crowns and Eternal Rewards			Chapter 16

GRADING

SECTION 1: Pre-Class Assignments - [30%]

Assignment #1 - Reading Assignment – Read the following **three texts**:

- a) Penner, Glenn. *In the Shadow of the Cross: A Biblical Theology of Persecution and Discipleship*. Bartlesville, OK: Living Sacrifice Books, 2004.
- b) Taylor, Bill ed. *Sorrow and Blood: Doing Mission in Contexts of Suffering, Persecution and Martyrdom*. World Evangelical Alliance, 2012.
- c) Ton, Josef. *Suffering, Martyrdom and Rewards in Heaven*. Wheaton, IL: Romanian Missionary Society, 2000.

Identify biblical principles of persecution (five from each text) that you would use in ***discipling a new Christian in your country*** to face pressure and persecution. Write a one-page report (150 words) on each of the 15 principles you chose (total 2500 words) telling how you would apply each principle in your country today.

SECTION 2. In-Class Assignments - [35%]

+ see Dropbox link for Daily Reading Assignments:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xpygl75i2h1vtd7/AAA8c5gBjN9Q1xoxu5QEGb2Sa>

Assignment #2 - Annotated Bibliography [20%]

Separate from the Daily Reading Assignments: Complete ten (10) readings (texts, journal articles or chapters from references) related to the theme: *Persecution and Discipleship*. Prepare a one-page (250 word) annotated report (explanatory and critical comments) for each reading.

Assignment #3 – Class Presentation [15%]

Prepare and teach a 15-minute (Maximum) lesson to the class on your “Pre-approved topic” for your Term Paper (see list below).

SECTION 3. Post-Class Assignment [35%]

Assignment #4 – Write a Paper on Pre-approved Topic (2500 words minimum) [35%]

See list below of possible topics below – in reference section

Outline what lessons and principles you would now teach other Christians based on the lessons you learned from classes and readings. Identify how you would teach Christians to understand and prepare for persecution.

TOTAL [____/100]

SAMPLE TOPICS FOR A TERM PAPER

1. ***“The cross-centered gospel requires cross-bearing messengers.”*** Explain and expand on the statement made by Glenn Penner.
2. **The Doctrine of Impassibility.** Explain and support why you agree or disagree with it. (Penner pp 88-93)
3. **Christian pacifism and “Just War”.** Explore the arguments proponents use as to whether a Christian can or should ever participate in war. State your own position and conclusions.
4. **Theodicy.** Develop the variety of views of and your personal position.
5. **“Way of the Cross” vs “Way of the Culture”.** What does this mean in your area of the world? Describe the difference using biblical support.
6. ***“Persecution does not automatically bring Church growth but Church growth often brings persecution.”*** Explain and illustrate this statement using biblical examples. Does Church history validate the statement? How?
7. **Revelation 12:11.** Explain and expand on the significance of the central message of this apocalyptic letter.
8. **Forgiveness.** Why is forgiveness such a repeated theme in the New Testament? What are the theological and practical implications of forgiveness and non-forgiveness?
9. **“Non-violence”.** Indicate what aspects are and what aspects may not be biblical. Indicate also where in the Old Testament non-violence was taught or demonstrated.
10. **Martyrdom.** Develop a biblical theology of martyrdom and illustrate from history whether it has truly been a catalyst of Church growth that many claim it to be.
11. **Suffering, Martyrdom and Rewards.** Josef Ton says: “Suffering is an instrument by which the one who suffers carries out God’s purposes in other people, in history, or even above history, in the spiritual realm. When one comes to see that even God Himself is involved in this kind of suffering, one has reached the pinnacle of understanding.” (p.5). Develop your view of his thesis.
12. **Equipping the Church and Leadership.** How should we equip, the church and its leadership as well as, the global mission movement in light of today’s growing persecution and martyrdom? How can we equip our future cross-cultural servants to live in contexts where they will face persecution and possible martyrdom?
13. **Harassment and Persecution in the Global North.** What will harassment and persecution look like as it grows in the Global North? Describe the process that it could utilize.

FOUR STAGES OF A LESSON PLAN/LEARNING TASK

The following 30 TOPAD Lessons are divided into Four-Stages

Stage 1 The Learner, The Teacher and the new Skill, Content or Attitude (be it called Action, Belief or Character) meet in the Learner's context connected to the life and experience of the Learner.	Hello	Hook	Connection	Induction	Preparation • setting the stage	Reflect	Anchor	Discovery
Stage 2 The Learner experiences the new content as presented through a variety of modes determined by the needs of the Learner.	Know	Book	Content	Input	Presentation • disclosure	Deduct	Add	Dream
Stage 3 The Learner applies the new learning skill, knowledge or character by practicing to show understanding.	Show	Look	Consolidation	Implementation	Practice • reformulation	Project	Apply	Design
Stage 4 The Learner takes the learning experience with them into their interaction with others to evidence change in the skill, knowledge or attitude.	Grow	Took	Challenge	Integration	Purposeful Response • transcendence	Connect	Away	Destiny

Times assigned to each Stage are only a 'suggestion' for a 55-minute class. Adjust as needed.

Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect
(10 minutes)

Know – Book – Presentation – Content.....(30 minutes)

Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation.....(10 minutes)

Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – Take Away.....(5 minutes)

MASTER LIST OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES

DAY 1 – SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION – BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

Learning Objectives: A key phrase in writing Learning Objectives is: “By the end of this Lesson the participants *will have...*” Learning Objectives written in the Past tense show what the Learner *will know, do, or be* at the end of the time together.

Learners *will have... written...read...prepared...practiced...developed...designed...identified...etc.*

Lesson 1 – Introduction

...*read* S&B Chapter 6,7,10. – Penner Chapter 1 – Ton: Introduction

Pdfs – Adeyemo, Ripkin, Tieszen; *Faith That Endures* (FTE) - Chapters 4&5; SSTS – pp. 72-76.

...*written* their definition of ‘Persecution’.

...*identified/drawn* – in a visual manner their ‘picture’ of the biblical basis for persecution.

...*reflected* on a Luke 6:22 moment in their life.

...*written* how they will respond to an “HEIR Attack”.

Lesson 2 – Persecution: Definition Causes and Elements

...*read* S&B Chapter 21,22,24,25 and SSTS Chapter 1.

...*memorized* John 14:6

...*identified* how this verse may generate conflict.

...*identified* the goal of each stage of the HEIR/ODIM Levels of Persecution.

...*considered* appropriate responses to persecution.

...*written* a letter to their ‘son/daughter’ telling him/her “How to Biblically Respond to Persecution”

Lesson 3 – What Does Contemporary Persecution Look Like?

...*read* S&B Chapter 1,13,26,27,28 plus FTE Chapters 1-3.

...*participated* in a quiz to identify leaders of the Top 50 Countries persecuting Christians.

...*accepted* that one learns obedience through suffering

...*established* that God works through “*My servant Nebachudnezzar...*” regardless of who King Neb may be.

...*chosen* ONE Country as their Prayer Target Country and

...*identified* the Leader for prayer!

Lesson 4 – Responding to Persecution

...*read* S&B – Chapter 3, 36,43,47,60 Taylor

...*plus* Pdf’s – Kusmic, Ripkin, Stassen; Non-violence Introduction; SSTS – Chapter 15;

...*and* Sauer & Howell - *Suffering, Persecution & Martyrdom* - Chapter 4

...*reviewed* the biblical principles for responding to persecution.

...*reviewed* and listed responses to persecution.

...*listed* how they will personally respond.

Lesson 5– Our Enemy’s Internal Tactics

...*read* S&B – Chapter 35,38 plus Pdf Datema

...*accepted* that we have only ONE Enemy: Satan, who attacks in many ways.

...*reviewed* and discussed the 9-primary Internal tactics

...*discussed* positive and negative aspects of being rich and/or poor.

...*reinforced* their awareness of the primary internal sources of persecution

Lesson 6 – Our Enemy’s External Tactics

...*read* S&B – Chapter 28,29,31,33,34 and Boyd “God at War”

...*identified* five primary sources of external tactics used by Satan against Christians.

...*discussed* biblical passages related to understanding spiritual warfare.

...*reinforced* their awareness of the primary external sources of persecution

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION – BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 1 <i>Introduction</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have... <i>written...read...prepared practiced...developed designed...identified...etc.</i></p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions – Prayer – Course Outline – Write our Expectations on colored sticky notes – using a maximum of 5 words! ☺ Place notes on board. Group responses according to categories. • Learners write their “Definition” of Persecution on colored sticky notes – using a maximum of 5 words! ☺ Place notes on board. Group responses according to categories. • Options: “The Dangerous Book,” DVD. Open Doors International, 2008. • or PPT: Operation World: Jason Mandryk – Review of Persecution and Church Growth (available from Open Doors) 	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...read</i> S&B Chapter 6,7,10. – Penner Chapter 1 – Ton: Introduction Pdfs – Adeyemo, Ripkin, Tieszen; <i>Faith That Endures</i> (FTE) - Chapters 4&5; <i>SSTS</i> – pp. 72-76. <i>...written</i> their definition of ‘Persecution’</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Difference between Suffering and Persecution? <i>Suffering</i> – Personal – Pain – Illness – Comes to every Christian (see 4 sources SSTS p.130) Flesh (anger); Life Circumstances (cancer); World System (wars); Devil (tensions) <i>Persecution</i> – for faith in Jesus Christ – seek to “ODIM” us – HEIR attacks against “Christ-in-us” How are they related? The biblical basis for persecution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God wants us in Heaven with Him 2. God sent Jesus to suffer for our salvation. 3. God allowed 12 disciples to suffer so the Gospel spread. 4. God wants us to serve – and suffer – as a “witness” (<i>martyr</i>) to reach others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation Theology – Human Rights given by God • The Big Picture of Suffering: persecution, religious intolerance, martyrdom. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and biblical definitions – Luke 6:22 – (NIV) and Romans 8:17 • HEIR Chart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate you – Exclude you – Insult you – Reject you • ODIM - Toward a Biblical Understanding of Persecution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition – Discrimination – Injustice – Maltreatment 	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p><i>...identified/drawn</i> – in a visual manner their ‘picture’ of the biblical basis for persecution.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In pairs - tell the person beside you an example of Luke 6:22 ‘Persecution’ in your life. Summarize comments on white board. 	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...reflected</i> on a Luke 6:22 moment in their life.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – Take Away</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a maximum of 10 words...on a sticky note...write your answer to this statement: “When I face someone who Hates me, Excludes me, Insults me or Rejects me... I will... • Place notes on board. Group responses according to categories. 	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p><i>...written</i> how they will respond to an “HEIR Attack”.</p>
<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky-notes – pens – colored crayons or pens paper for drawing. 	

Reference Notes for Lesson 1

Introduction

By what authority are you teaching on Persecution? Luke 20:1-2
The authority of Scripture not personal “experiences”

Standing Strong through the Storm (SSTS) started with a collection of stories from the Persecuted Church. Glen Penner (VOM) based his book *In the Shadow of the Cross* on classes he taught. Penner states: “a Cross bearing message requires a Cross bearing messenger”; and *Suffering, Martyrdom, and Rewards in Heaven*, Joseph Ton (Tson).

New Earth Island Diagram:

- Religions: Christians (1st); Muslims (2nd); Non-Religious (3rd); Hindus (4th)
- Languages: Chinese, English, Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese, Bengali, Japanese
- All groups want to control the “Island” (world).
- Three Groups: Western secularists, Asian capitalists, Muslim fundamentalists.

Operation World-World Watch List 2012 Handout: North Korea #1.

- Turkey: church growing slower than population,
- There are a number of countries that are doubling and growing even 4 times faster than the total population growth.


Jesus prepares His disciples to be a “*martyr*” (a witness; or a ‘martyr’) Luke 6: 22-36

HEIR (counter-culture response from Jesus):

- H-Hate you (love your enemies)
- E-Exclude you (do good)
- I-Insult you (bless them)
- R-Reject You (pray for them)

Jesus Prepares His Disciples to be a martyr/witness Matthew 10 - MARTYR

- M-Mistreated (misunderstood) v 14
- A-Alienated (rejected) v 14
- R-Restricted (detained) v 17,19
- T-Traumatized (abused) v 17
- Y-“You-Run” (pursued.....persecuted) v. 23
- R-RIP (killed) v 21,28

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION – BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Persecution: Definition, Causes and Elements</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Look at New Earth Island map... What do you see as areas or reasons for potential ‘conflicts’ on the Island?</p> <p>Controversial verse: John 14:10 (“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Me”)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read S&B Chapter 21,22,24,25 and SSTS Chapter 1.</p> <p>...memorized John 14:6</p> <p>...identified how this verse may generate conflict.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p>  <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show how “Conflict” on New Earth Island is related to our Enemy wanting the Island to have “One Language” (English?); “One Currency” and “One Religion” – as we are all going up the mountain to the same god. • The ‘god’ of New Earth Island has a name: “SAM-TING” since “<i>We all believe in the same thing (aka: Sam Ting)</i>”. • Sam-Ting is not consistent. He tells <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindus to “Worship the Cow” • Buddhists to “Eat the Cow” • Vegetarians to “Eat no meat!” • <i>Sam-Ting</i> also tells: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animists to “Eat their Enemies” and • Muslims to “Kill their Enemies.” • Our God, Jehovah is diametrically opposed to <i>Sam-Ting</i>. Jehovah tells us to “Love our Enemies...if our Enemy is hungry, ‘Feed him’...” Our God is NOT <i>Sam-Ting</i>. Could John 14:6 be the source of our Persecution? </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...identified the goal of each stage of the HEIR/ODIM Levels of Persecution.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>In pairs tell your partner ways you would consider responding to each stage.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...considered appropriate responses to persecution</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – Take Away</p> <p>Write a letter to their ‘son/daughter’. Tell them: “How you can Biblically Respond to Persecution.”...place in envelop...address to their home address...mail to themselves as a reminder.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...written a letter to their ‘son/daughter’ telling him/her “How to Biblically Respond to Persecution”</p>
<p>Materials – paper for letters...envelopes</p>	

New Earth Island - 2017

© 2017 by James D. (Jim) Cunningham, Ed.D. jdcunningham@telus.net

Population 1,000 - Area 20 Sq. Km.

Based on Ratio of 7,500,000:1 (*)

MOTHER-TONGUE LANGUAGE TOTAL: 300+ LANGUAGES

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 160 - Chinese | 5. 33 - Arabic | 9. 17 - Japanese |
| 2. 57 - Hindi | 6. 29 - Portuguese | 10. 13 - Punjabi/Farsi |
| 3. 53 - Spanish | 7. 23 - Bengali | + 308 speak 88 Languages |
| 4. 48 - English ^(a) | 8. 23 - Russian | + 236 speak 200+ Languages |
- ^(a) 114 live in areas where English is the official language



(*) Computed figures are based on currently available data

Reference Notes for Lesson 2

Persecution: Definition, Causes and Elements

PRE-PERSECUTION

- REMEMBER – prepare for coming persecution. (Hebrews 13:3)
- RELATE – or “affirm” leaders (potential persecutors) before you find them banging on your door (Luke 6:27)
- REHEARSE – how you will respond when it comes. (Luke 21:36)

PERSECUTION

- REJOICE – knowing you are not alone. (Matthew 5:12)
- REMAIN – faithful and steadfast in your faith. (Philippians 2:2)
- RESIST – the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7-8a)
[Note: While this is a warning and instruction for dealing with worldliness and not persecution, we must learn to resist our Enemy]
- RESPOND – in grace and with love. (Romans 12:21; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

POST PERSECUTION

- RECOVER – know the Lord will use this event for His glory. (Philippians 1:13)
- RESTORE – God will repay according to His grace and time. (Joel 2:25)
[Note: Joel is a promise to Israel in response to her repentance for her rebellion and idolatry...God does help us rebuild our lives after persecution]
- REBUILD – God can heal and help with our recovery (beauty for ashes). (Isaiah 61:3)

ODIM – 4 ELEMENTS OF PERSECUTION

O-OPPOSITION – Hebrew 12:3

- Hate you for what you believe (psychological/social storms)
- Intimidate us to ‘*Shut us down*’
- Goal: Derail our vision and hope

D-DISCRIMINATION - Matthew 5:11

- Exclude you for what you say
- Contain us to ‘*Shut us up*’
- Goal: Discourage our witness and faith

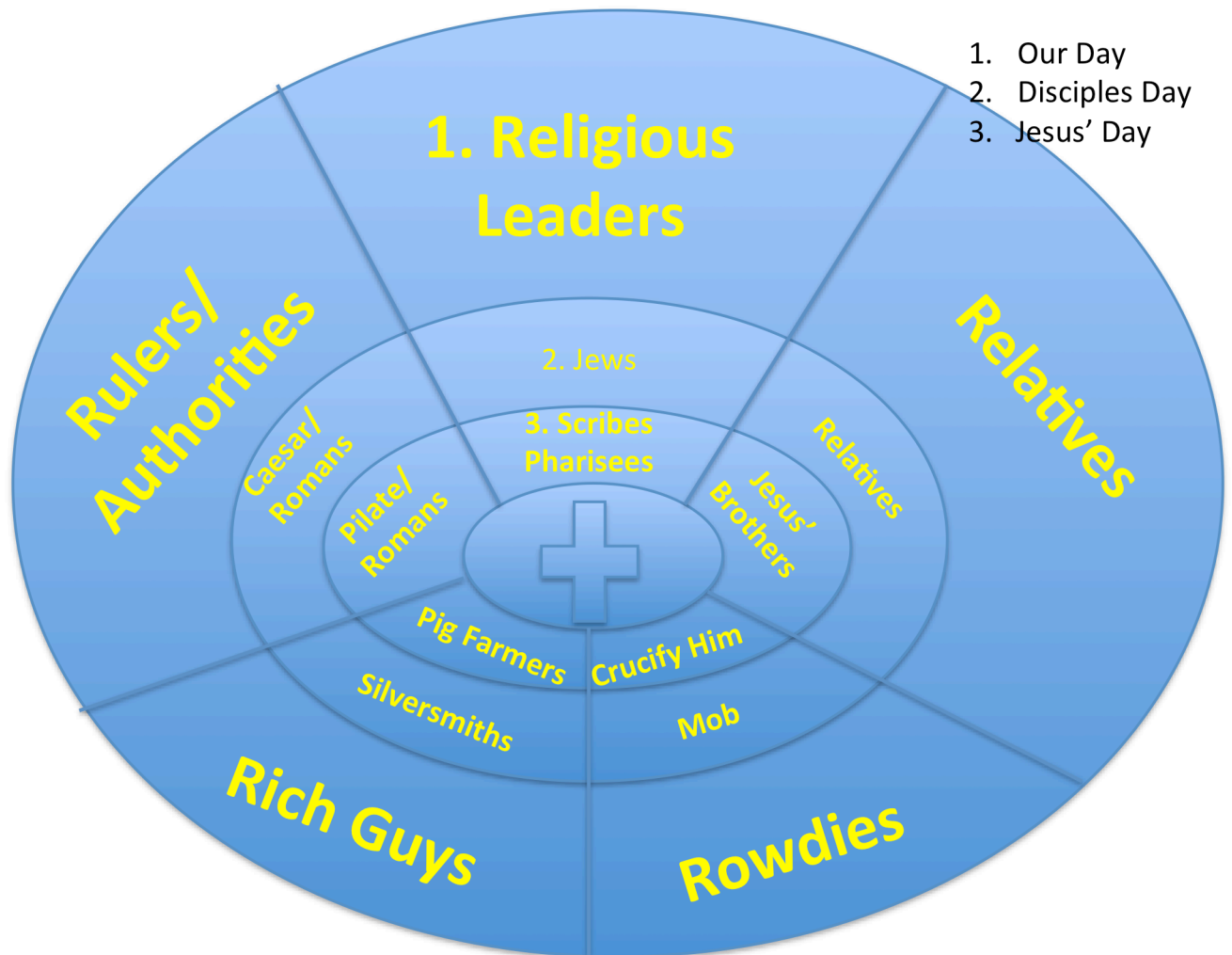
I-INJUSTICE - Acts 8:33a

- Insult you for what you do
- Harass us to ‘*Shut us out*’
- Goal: Defeat our compassion and love—consequences: pastors incarcerated for refusing to marry gay couples, etc.

M-MALTREATMENT - Hebrews 13:3

- Reject you for who you are—imprisonment, destruction, attack on Christians for witnessing
 - Christian organizations, church are not allowed to exist under penalty of punishment (Eritrea)
 - Remove us to ‘*Shut us off*’—attacking what we believe becomes an intimidation factor that causes voices of faith to lower the volume, compromise on held values, and or change perspective to fit the culture
 - Goal: Destroy our being and influence—consequences of having ones beliefs attacked are compromises to held values, changing faiths, or becoming a minority and whatever that represents in that society.
-

Sources of Persecution



<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION – BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What Does Contemporary Persecution Look Like?</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Distribute World Watch ‘Top 50’ List. Ask participants to Name the Leader of as many of the Top 50 countries as possible: _____</p> <p>Or watch selected video clips from: “The Coming Persecution of Christians in the West” DVD. John Loeffler, Worldview Weekend Tele-Productions.</p>	<p>(10 minutes) ...read S&B Chapter 1,13,26,27,28 plus FTE Chapters 1-3. ...participated in a quiz to identify leaders of the Top 50 Countries persecuting Christians.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is the Persecuted Church Today? Internationally and locally. • Internationally: World Watch List. • Locally: <i>Red Skies at Dawn: the coming storms of persecution</i> (Open Doors). 	<p>(30 minutes) ...accepted that one learns obedience through suffering</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Ron Boyd-MacMillan in <i>FTE</i> identifies three categories of those persecuted today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dying • The Creeping • The Squeezing (see reference page) <p>Discover Bible principles/verses/themes related to:</p> <p>a) Leaders (respecting those in authority) They are God’s ministers...Romans 13 b) Prayer (praying for those in authority) Pray for kings etc why to live peaceful lives...Romans 13 c) Obedience (obeying those in authority) Let every soul be subject...Romans 13 d) Sovereignty (God using those in authority) Raises up kings and puts down kings...Daniel</p>	<p>(10 minutes)</p> <p>...established that God works through “My servant Nebuchadnezzar...” regardless of who King Neb may be.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – Take Away</p> <p>Back to list of ‘Top 50’ ...Distribute list of “Leaders” in Top 50 ... learn names of Leaders and pray for those “who are in authority...” Challenge: Choose ONE Country as your Prayer Target Country. Make this your focus for News – Missions – Payer – Meeting people and where possible a Visit!</p>	<p>(5 minutes) ...chosen ONE Country as their Prayer Target Country and ...identified the Leader for prayer!</p>
<p>Materials Top 50 List...plus List of Leaders from Top 50 countries.</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 3
What Does Contemporary Persecution Look Like?
Details in *Faith That Endures*, pp. 22-81

1. THE DYING

“Martyrs unmask for the ordinary Christian the hostile nature of the world we live in.”

- Killing for God
- Killing to “Rescue” Their God
- Protect The Racket

2. THE CREEPING

“Five-part recurring pattern”

- Vacuums
- Villains
- Lies
- Mobs
- Megaphones

3. THE SQUEEZING

“The Seven Strands”

- Persecution from Ideology
 - Persecution from Government
 - Persecution from the Family
 - Persecution from the Culture
 - Persecution from the Church
 - Persecution from Corrupt Individuals
 - Persecution from “Over Boldness”
-

4. THERE IS ALSO THE ASPECT OF: THE SMASHING

- Currently in places like Nigeria, North Korea, North Mali, Syria, Iraq

Education starts the process

Four Coming Storms

1. Storm attacking our Faith
 - HATE us for what we ‘Believe’
2. Storm attacking the Bible
 - EXCLUDE us for what we ‘Say’
3. Storm attacking Evangelism
 - INSULT us for what we ‘Do’
 - Multiculturalism
4. Storm attacking the Church
 - REJECT us for who we ‘Are’
 - Exclusivists

www.worldwatchlist.us **Top 50 countries where Christians face the most persecution.**

RANK WWL 2016	Country
1	North Korea
2	Iraq
3	Eritrea
4	Afghanistan
5	Syria
6	Pakistan
7	Somalia
8	Sudan
9	Iran
10	Libya
11	Yemen
12	Nigeria
13	Maldives
14	Saudi Arabia
15	Uzbekistan
16	Kenya
17	India
18	Ethiopia
19	Turkmenistan
20	Vietnam
21	Qatar
22	Egypt
23	Myanmar
24	Palestinian Territories
25	Brunei
26	CAR
27	Jordan
28	Djibouti
29	Laos
30	Malaysia
31	Tajikistan
32	Tunisia
33	China
34	Azerbaijan
35	Bangladesh
36	Tanzania
37	Algeria
38	Bhutan
39	Comoros
40	Mexico
41	Kuwait
42	Kazakhstan
43	Indonesia
44	Mali
45	Turkey
46	Colombia
47	UAE
48	Bahrain
49	Niger
50	Oman

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION – BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Responding to Persecution</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Review 2-3 “scenarios” related to persecution incidents and then have them complete the following statement: “What would you do if...”List responses Option: show DVD: “Little Town of Bethlehem,” EthnoGraphic Media, 2010.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...read</i> S&B – Chapter 3, 36,43,47,60 Taylor ...plus Pdf’s – Kusmic, Ripkin, Stassen; Non-violence Introduction; SSTS – Chapter 15; Sauer & Howell - <i>Suffering, Persecution & Martyrdom</i> - Chapter 4</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Principles Of Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be at peace in the midst of storms—God is in control. • God’s ultimate goal, whether by persecution or freedom, is for us to be conformed to the image of His Son. • We keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, the Living God, who modeled perseverance when confronted with opposition <p>Responding to Persecution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleeing from violence requires dependency on the Holy Spirit for guidance. • Staying and enduring requires dependency on the Holy Spirit for guidance. • Appealing to legal rights requires dependency on the Holy Spirit for guidance • Non-Violence: Ideological & Pragmatic • Retaliation / Divine Justice <p>Discuss the details from the following page</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p><i>...reviewed</i> the biblical principles for responding to persecution.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Scenario from “Islamistan”: Christians have lived in peace with their Muslim neighbors in this land for over 300 years. Recently an extremist group declared jihad against all “western-Christian-denominations.” In pairs list your options for a biblical response.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...reviewed</i> and listed responses to persecution.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>How will you implement ‘Transforming Initiatives’ in your relationships?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p><i>...listed</i> how they will - personally respond to persecution.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 4 ***Responding to Persecution***

How Do We Tend To Respond To Persecution? Luke 10:2-16

“I am sending you out like lambs among wolves!”

1. Isolationists: No contact with wolves
2. Triumphalists: Super-sheep on steroids
3. Conformists: Sheep in “wolves clothing”
4. Literalists: Obey the Shepherd whatever the cost.

Biblical Principles:

- Don't be surprised - 1 Peter 4:12-14
- Rejoice - Matt 5:11-12
- Pray with thankfulness - Phil 4:6
- Evaluate the source of suffering - 1 Peter 4:15-19
- Refuse to be ashamed - 1 Peter 4:16
- Respond as Christ responded - 1 Peter 3:8-12; Matt 5:38-48
- Refuse to retaliate - 1 Peter 2:23
- Trust God - 1 Peter 4:19
- Stand firm and stand together - 1 Corinthians 12: 20-27

Responding to Persecution:

Teaching of Jesus: Luke 6:27-31

(See true story of Dirk Willems- Holland 1569AD)

1. Flee:

Mary & Joseph fled to Egypt (Matt 2:13-14); disciples told to flee (Matt 10:23); Moses in bulrushes (Exodus 2:3); Rahab hid the spies (Joshua 2:4); Jesus withdrew from the mob (Luke 4:30; John 8:59); Paul over the Damascus wall in a basket (Acts 9:24).

2. Stay and Endure:

A) Aggressive Love... Transforming Initiatives; Luke 6:27-37

Active Non-violence: 1 Peter 2:23; Matt 26: 52; Psalm 11:5; Ezekiel 7

Just peacemaking; Matt 5:9; 5:38-48

B) Overcome evil with good; Rom 12: 19-21

C) Accepting Martyrdom for Jesus' sake- Matt 16:25

Jesus Acts 1:8

Stephen Acts 5:57-60

James Acts 12:2

3. Appeal to Authorities-Legal Rights:

Paul appealed to Caesar- Acts 22 & 25

Exercise legal rights to be protected

Interestingly, the Apostle Paul applied all three of the above!

**Handout from Dr. Glen Stassen's Lectures
during the Central Spring Lectures, March 12-13, 2009**

The Fourteen Triads Of The Sermon On The Mount: Matt 5:21-7:12

Traditional Righteousness	Vicious Cycle	Transforming Initiative
1. You shall not kill	Being angry, or saying, You fool!	Go, be reconciled
2. You shall not commit adultery	Looking with lust is adultery in the heart.	Remove the cause of temptation (cf. Mk 9:43ff.)
3. Whoever divorces, give a certificate	Divorcing involves you in adultery	(Be reconciled: I Cor 7:11)
4. You shall not swear falsely	Swearing by anything involves you in a false claim	Let your yes be yes, and your no be no
5. Eye for eye, tooth for tooth	Retaliating violently or revengefully, by evil means	Turn the other cheek Give tunic and cloak Go the second mile Give to beggar & borrower
6. Love neighbor & hate enemy	hating enemies is the same vicious cycle that you see in the Gentiles & tax collectors	Love enemies, pray for your persecutors; be all-inclusive as your Father in heaven is
7. When you give alms,	practicing righteousness for show	but give in secret; your Father will reward you
8. When you pray,	practicing righteousness for show	but pray in secret; your Father will reward you
9. When you pray,	practicing righteousness for show	Therefore pray like this: Our Father...
10. When you fast,	practicing righteousness for show	but dress with joy; your Father will reward you
11. Do not pile up treasures on earth (cf. Luke 12:16-31)	moth & rust destroy, and thieves enter & steal	But pile up treasures in heaven
12. No one can serve two masters	Serving God & wealth, worrying about food & clothes	But seek first God's reign and God's justice/righteousness
13. Do not judge, lest you be judged	Judging others means you'll be judged by same measure	First take the log out of your own eye
14. Do not give holy things to dogs, nor pearls to pigs	They will trample them and tear you to pieces	Give your trust in prayer to your Father in heaven

See Glen Stassen, *Living the Sermon on the Mount* (Jossey-Bass); "The Fourteen Triads of the Sermon on the Mount, Matt 5:2-7:12, *Journal of Biblical Literature* (summer 2003); *Kingdom Ethics*, chapter 6 and following chapters. <http://documents.fuller.edu/sot/faculty/stassen>

Scenario Responding to Persecution

Imagine your hometown is now al-Qaryatain (in Syria). Armed, fanatical Islamic State 'Jihadists' are in control. Police are gone. No one is coming to rescue us. The Christians of your town (now called *dhimmi*s — or infidels by ISIS jihadists) have 48 hours to make a choice:

Option 1 - Convert immediately to Islam — and stay alive

Option 2 - Pay an exorbitant tax (called *jizyah*) — and stay alive (till you run out of money!)

Option 3 - Leave immediately — take nothing with you — just start walking.

Option 4 - Die — current options are beheading, hanging, burned alive and thrown off a building – more options coming later.

All Christians have four choices — and 48 hours to decide. Oh, you say, that would never happen in my hometown. That just happens "over there".

Well, Assyrian and Chaldean Christians lived in peace with their neighbors in the Damascus region of Syria and the Nineveh plains in Iraq — as followers of Jesus Christ since the days of the apostles — some 600 years before Islam began. But those 2000 years of peaceful coexistence are gone. It is happening – now.

a) How will you respond?

b) How will you respond to your Christian friends/family who want to choose a different option?

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION – BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Our Enemy’s Internal Tactics – Fear – Materialism - Guilt</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Review the readings as an opening to the session with an opportunity for each person to share highlights they discovered in their readings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read S&B – Chapter 35,38 plus Pdf Datema</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Lucifer (Satan) our Enemy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have only one enemy, Satan, who uses a variety of tactics. <p>The Battle Within (Internal Tactics)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satan’s deadliest tactic, pride, causes us to act in self-centeredness with no need for God. • God is in control; therefore, we do not need to be afraid – even when facing death. • If we are filled with the Holy Spirit and have lost our fear of death, we are unstoppable until God calls us home to heaven. • Choosing to overcome slavery to materialism is a choice with eternal consequences. • When God’s people are called to endure persecution they become the object of hostility because of Jesus Christ in them. <p>Walk through Scriptures related to each Internal “tactic”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride (Gen 3:5) • Guilt (1 John 1:9) • False guilt/legalism: the laws of man (Gal 3:3) • Fear (Ps 34:4) • Syncretism (John 24:6) • Busyness (Romans 12:2) • Materialism (Matt 6:24) • Offense (Luke 17:1) • Heresy 	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...accepted that we have only ONE Enemy: Satan, who attacks in many ways.</p> <p>...reviewed and discussed the 9-primary Internal tactics</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Consolidate the discussion on Materialism by dividing the room into 4 groups according to “Coffee-stick Percentages” – 50% of class = under \$400 a year; 40% up to \$4,000; 9% up to \$40,000 and 1% with net worth of \$500,000. have each group prepare positive/negative questions/comments they would ask the other three groups.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...discussed positive and negative aspects of being rich and/or poor.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Ask each person to draw a picture (to keep as a reminder) of one of the 9-sources of Internal Persecution. Share picture with others.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...reinforced their awareness of the primary internal sources of persecution</p>
<p>Materials: Paper, colored pencils.</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 5 *Our Enemy's Internal Tactics*

Evil comes disguised as:

- Harmless innocent fun,
- Legal and acceptable,
- A well-deserved selfish reward,
- Pride/proof of being a strong Christian,
- It feels good!

Spiritual Victory is always obtained by Faith,

Satan uses two categories of tactics: Deceit and intimidation – to alienate us from God.

Internal Tactics (Landmines)

- Pride (Gen 3:5)
- Guilt (1 John 1:9)
- False guilt/legalism: the laws of man (Gal 3:3)
- Fear (Ps 34:4)
- Syncretism (John 24:6)
- Busyness (Romans 12:2)
- Materialism (Matt 6:24)
- Offense (Luke 17:1)
- Heresy

Principle: The internal weapons our enemy Satan uses are often very effective for his cause.

FEAR (False Evidence Appearing Real) - God's Answer: Hebrews 2:14-15; Gal 2:20;

Fear of God makes a hero....Fear of man makes a coward!"

Psalm 34:4...the Lord delivers us from our fears

- Fear of death
- Fear of public speaking
- Fear of harm
- Fear of change
- Fear of future (worry)

Conquering Fear requires courage and boldness (Jeremiah 1:8; Acts 4:29; Acts 20: 22-24). Here are seven biblical expressions to help us overcome the fear of dying.

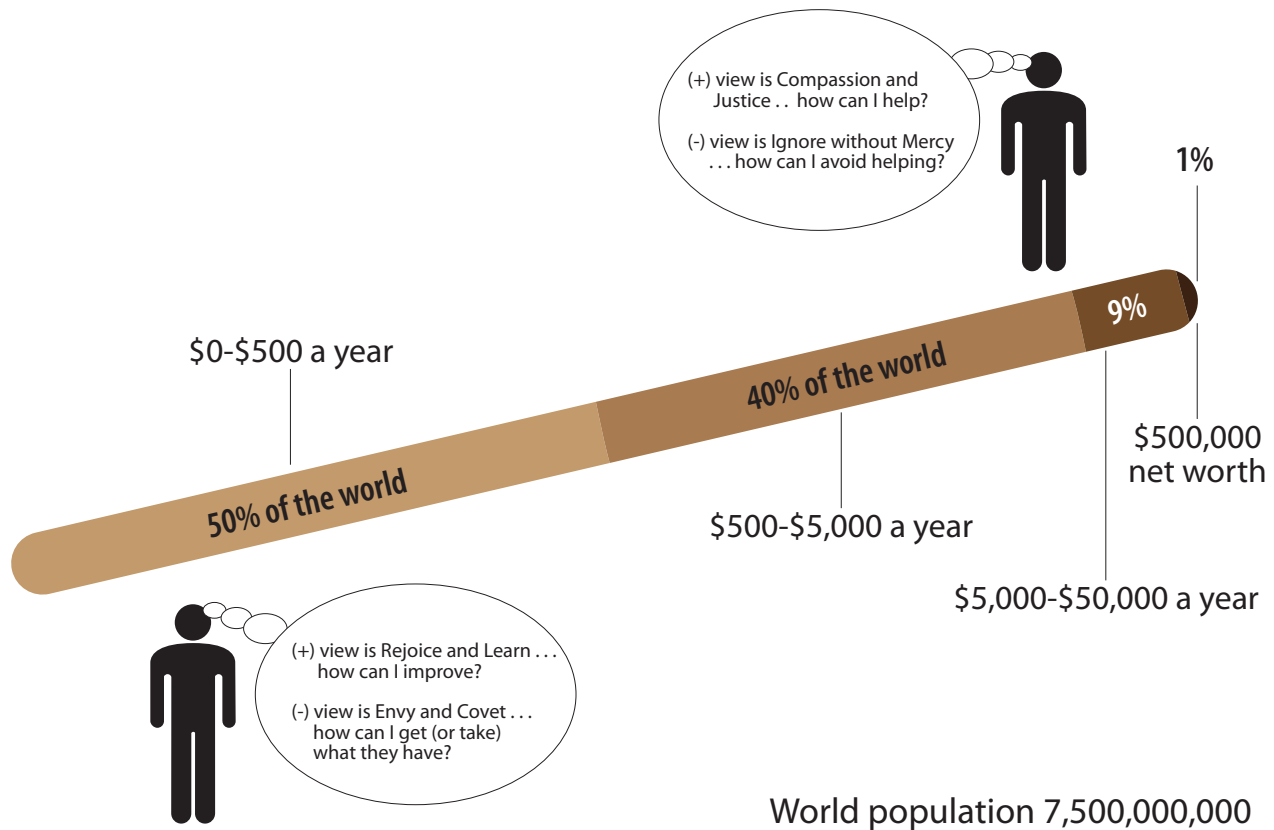
1. God is in control (His will in everything). Read Psalm 91, Mark 4:35-41; Phil 4:6-7
2. Focus on fearing God and dying to self. Acts 5:29; Galatians 2:20
3. We are only strangers and pilgrims on earth. Hebrews 10:34
4. God can bring good from evil. Gen 50:20
5. The enemy can only harm our body, not our soul. Matt 10:28 (we only have one enemy - Satan)
6. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. 2 Cor. 5:8; 2Tim 2:11-12
7. There is a crown of life for the faithful to death. Rev 2:10

Materialism - “in North American society, we live behind a plastic curtain.” Is extremely seductive.

- Consumerism vs Discipleship: I am what I buy vs the Lordship of Christ; discontent vs the sufficiency of Christ; brand relativism vs the supremacy of Christ
- In Jesus’ day, a rich person was one who had more food than needed for the day and who had more than one set of clothing.
- Go to www.globalrichlist.com Most North Americans who work full-time rank in the top 7% of the world’s population.

The “Coffee-Stick Theory of Materialism” (chart below), represents the world’s population of 7.5 billion (2017).

Cunningham’s Coffee-Stick Theory of Materialism (2017 Edition)



The bottom half (50%) earn less than \$500.00 a year of **family** income (around \$1.00 a day). The top half is split 40-10. 40% earn between \$500 and \$5,000.00 a year (around \$10.00 a day). The top 10% splits into a ratio of 9:1. 9% have a **family** income between \$5,000 and \$50,000.00 a year (around \$100.00 a day).

That little 1% at the top end represents people who have a “net worth of \$500,000.00” We’re not documenting incomes at this level just net worth.

The wealthiest person in the world is reported in 2012 to be **Carlos Slim Helú** (Spanish pronunciation: [['karlos es'lim e'lu](#)]); a Mexican citizen of Lebanese descent, with a reported income

around 70 Billion dollars. We don't have the name of the poorest person in the world but according to a number of sources, he or she likely lives in an African country.

The person with more tends to look at those "below" them with one of two attitudes:

The positive view is compassion and justice...How can I help?

The negative view is to ignore without mercy...How can I avoid helping?

The opposite of love is not hate, it is to ignore!

The person with less tends to look at those "above" with one of two attitudes:

The positive view is rejoice and learn...How can I improve? Can you teach me?

The negative view is enviousness...How can I get (or take) what they have? And who among us has never envied?

Materialism is an attitude of the heart unrelated to where we live or how much we possess.

A few years ago a 16-year-old guide took Jim by bus from Addis to a rural Ethiopian village. They arrived after a long bumpy six-hour bus ride. As they sat in the shade of a roadside café drinking a cold Coke, David (not his real name) looked at Jim's running shoes and said, "Jim, You are a rich man!" Jim asked "Why?" to which David said, "Look at your running shoes. They are new. You are a rich man." Just then four workmen walked past barefooted on the dirt road carrying heavy loads in the afternoon heat. Jim looked at David and said: "David, YOU are a rich man." Why? "You are able to sit in the shade during the heat of the day and drink a Coke, AND you have a pair of shoes. Those guys have neither shoes nor cold Cokes!" David began to think about those who had less rather than just compare himself to those who had more.

Materialism compares "Up." To compare "Down," with those who have less, helps change our perspective of how we compare "Up" with those who have more.

Overcoming Materialism -

- Get in touch with our feeling about money
- Stop denying our wealth
- Create an atmosphere in which confession is possible
- Discover on other person who will struggle with you through the money maze
- Discover ways to get in touch with the poor.
- Learn to be a good steward.
- Give with glad and generous hearts.
- There are two opposing Masters on Earth: God and Money. "Here in the west, we are not suffering persecution, we are just seduced!" (Norwegian Christian worker)

Waging Spiritual Warfare (Principle - Gal 5:22):

- Watch and warn: Isaiah 62:6-7
- Praise and worship: 2 Cor. 20:21-22
- Loving God more than life: Revelation 12:11
- Fasting: Isaiah 58:6
- Intimacy with God: Psalm 84:1-4
- Resisting the devil: James 4:7
- Personal power evangelism: Acts 16:16-40

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION – BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Our Enemy’s External Tactics</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect Review the readings as an opening to the session with an opportunity for each person to share highlights they discovered in their readings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes) ...read S&B – Chapter 28,29,31,33,34 and Boyd “God at War”</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Our enemy’s external tactics Strategies of the Enemy (<i>External Tactics</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satan’s goal is to destroy, defeat and discourage us through deceit and intimidation. External tactics of Satan come at us through 5-R’s – Rulers (Totalitarian governments), Religious leaders, Rowdies (mobs), Rich Guys (merchants) and Relatives (Family). Satan’s external tactics include: opposition, disinformation, injustice and mistreatment. <p>Walk through Scriptures related to each “tactic”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolation and Conflict- Acts 9:23-30; 13:10-11; 16: 22-24; 1 Corinthians 9:22 When confronted with direct and sever violence, Christians are dependent on their relationship with the Holy Spirit for wise guidance on when to flee when to stay and when to ask for a miracle. Nationalism/Tribalism-“Religious Nationalism is territory or culture staked out exclusively in religious terms: “only Hindus are allowed to stay in India” “A true Sri Lankans a Buddhist” Christians must accept second-class status, daily discrimination or leave. Religious Extremism requires: A vacuum - absence of moderates in power to control radicals A villain- to unite the people with a powerful message A lie: i.e. Christians are intolerant A megaphone-a loud repetition of a lie Secular Humanism (faith privatized) Religious Intolerance -Anti-conversion laws, limiting worship centers, intimidation/anti-blasphemy laws, economic discrimination, martyrdom, proselytism and enticement Ideologies: neutralization, threats. We must not assume that any one political or religious system is inherently 	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...identified five primary sources of external tactics used by Satan against Christians.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation Understanding Spiritual Warfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being engaged in a spiritual battle, we use only spiritual weapons to wage this warfare. Religious intolerance. 	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...discussed biblical passages related to understanding spiritual warfare.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Ask each person to draw a picture (to keep as a reminder) of one of the five sources of external persecution. Share picture with others.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...reinforced their awareness of the primary external sources of persecution</p>
<p>Materials Paper, colored pencils.</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 6 **Our Enemy's External Tactics**

The Scriptures point out that the Christian life can be described as a battle. Paul instructed the Ephesian believers to put on the whole armor of God that they might be able to stand up under the attacks of their enemy (Eph. 6:10-20). Paul told Timothy to continue fighting the good fight of faith. In this fight he was to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness as he sought to take hold of the eternal life to which he was called (1 Tim. 6:11-12).

Who is the enemy? It is certainly not other people, either inside or outside of the church family. The fight is not against flesh and blood.

This fight the Christian is urged to fight involves enemies on many fronts. They include:

- § My own selfish and sinful desires which I am instructed to put to death (Col. 3:5-10).
- § The pull of the world and its values including love of the world and its goods, its approval and its comforts. These are to be resisted. (Romans 12:2; 2 Timothy 4:9-10; 1 John 2:15-17).
- § Satan and his forces which desire to bring doubt, dishonor and destruction into my life. These are to be fought (Eph. 6:10-20; James 3:7).
- § The pressures to give up on continual growth toward holiness (1 Timothy 1:18-20; 6:11).
- § The pressure to turn away from the ministry I have been called to (2 Timothy 2:3; 4:5).

As we face these battlefields we must be sure that we are not fighting against God because we are out of touch with Him and His will and desire (John 18:36; Acts 5:39)

A Description of an Effective Spiritual Fighter

- § An effective spiritual fighter is one who has a long term perspective and has riveted his focus on the Lord Jesus Christ, His Commanding Officer. (2 Cor. 4:16-18; Col. 3:1-4; Hebrews 12:2-3; Matthew 25:1-13).
- § An effective spiritual fighter is one who knows the Word of God and its promises and daily applies it to his life and ministry (Ephesians 6:10-17; 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119:23-24, 92-95, 97-98).
- § An effective spiritual fighter is one who regularly bows at the Throne of God, asking for protection, direction, guidance and power of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 6:18-19).
- § An effective spiritual fighter is one who daily addresses the issues of personal holiness so that he can please his Commanding Officer and serve as an example to others around him (1 Tim. 6:11-16; 2 Tim. 2:3-4; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- § An effective spiritual fighter is one who must be willing to do whatever it takes to win the victory in any particular arena of warfare. Discipline and sacrifice are essential for victory (1 Cor. 9:26-27; 2 Cor. 4:8-12; 2 Tim. 2:3; 4:5; 1 Peter 5:2-4)

Primary Problems of the House Church in China.

- Offense (gossip) - sharing information with a person who is neither part of the problem nor part of the solution
- Materialism - money
- Heresy (false teaching/cults) - limited comprehension of the Scriptures

Suffering in the Will of God has Meaning and Purpose - Sources of Suffering:

- Life circumstances - things that happen (John 16:33)

- Our enemy the devil - 1 Peter 5:8
- Flesh or sinful nature – Mark 7:20-23
- World systems - James 4:4

Our enemy's Identity (1 Peter 5:8-9)

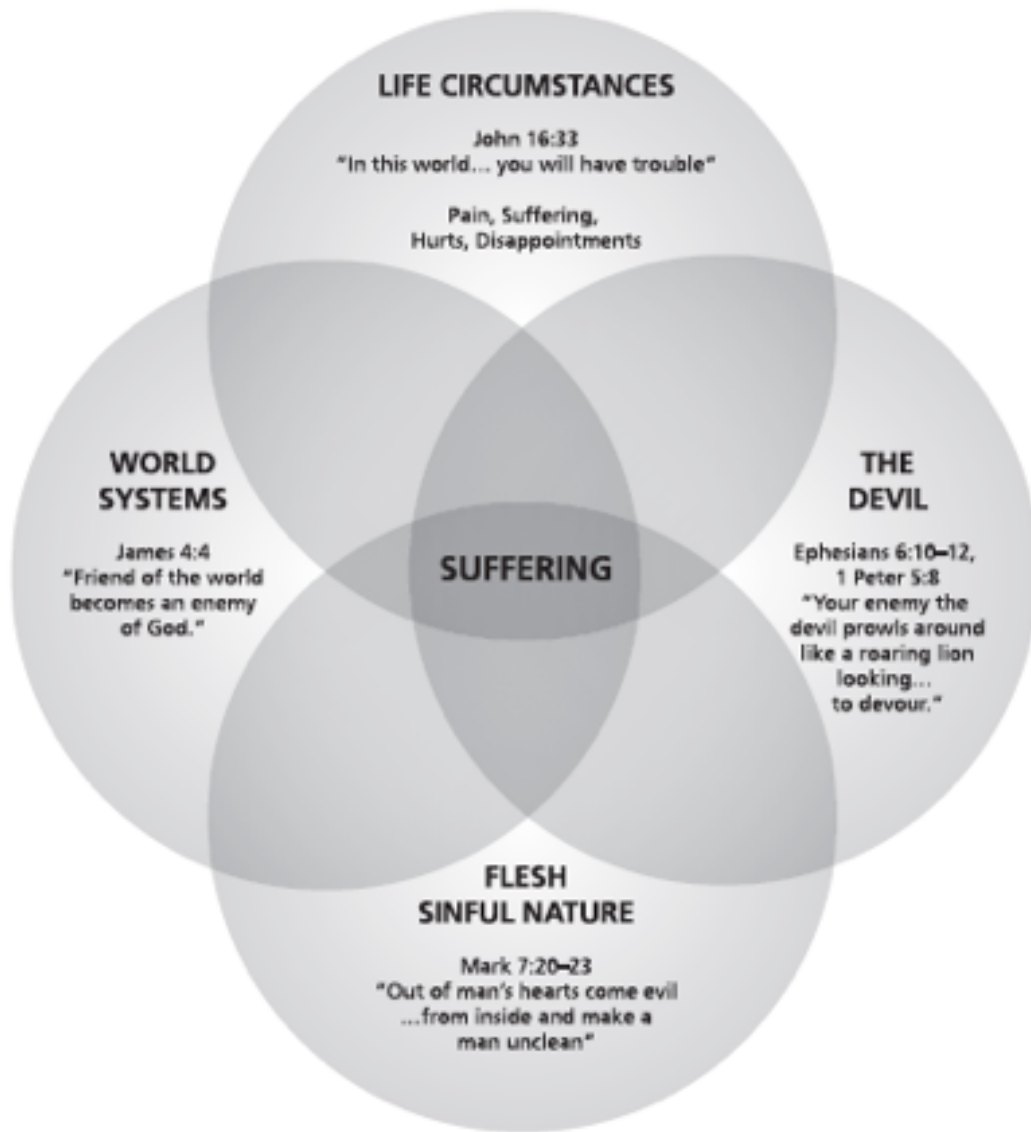
- Ruler of the world
- Disobedient ruler - ruler of the kingdom of the air
- Deceiver - the accuser, liar and father of lies
- Destroyer - a roaring lion, murderer
- Satan has no power to create life - he can only:
- Destroy life and demolish creation
- Discourage,
- Deceive and Divide

The Battle Around Us (1 Peter 5:8-9) - External Tactics:

- Isolation and Conflict (Acts 9:23-30; 13:10-11; 16: 22-24; 1 Corinthians 9:22) - when confronted with direct and severe violence, Christians are dependent on their relationship with the Holy Spirit for wise guidance on when to flee when to stay and when to ask for a miracle.
- Nationalism/Tribalism -“Religious Nationalism” is territory or culture staked out exclusively in religious terms: “Only Hindus are allowed to stay in India,” “A true Sri Lankan is a Buddhist.” Christians must accept second-class status, daily discrimination or leave.
- Religious Extremism requires:
 - A vacuum - absence of moderates in power to control radicals
 - A villain - to unite the people with a powerful message
 - A lie - i.e. Christians are intolerant
 - A mob - “rent-a-crowd”
 - A megaphone - a loud repetition of a lie
- Secular Humanism - faith privatized
- Religious Intolerance - anti-conversion laws, limiting worship centers, intimidation/anti-blasphemy laws, economic discrimination, martyrdom, proselytism and enticement
- Ideologies - neutralization, threats. We must not assume that any one political or religious system is inherently evil.

SOURCES OF SUFFERING

Model Created by Jim Cunningham – March 2003



GREATER OVERLAP CREATES GREATER SUFFERING

DAY 2

OLD TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES OF PERSECUTION

Learning Objectives: A key phrase in writing Learning Objectives is: “By the end of this Lesson the participants *will have...*” Learning Objectives written in the Past tense show what the Learner *will know, do, or be* at the end of the time together.

Learners will have... *written...read...prepared...practiced...developed...designed...identified...etc.*

Lesson 7 – Isaiah: The Suffering Servant

...read S&B Chapter 9; Ton Chapter 1 and SSTS Chapter 13.

...identified the importance of Isaiah’s teaching on “Suffering and Persecution”

...memorized Is 53: 5 as being the most important message of this song.

...identified 2-3 key unplanned / unanticipated benefits gained from suffering.

...compared their greatest “pain” to date to the pain of the Cross.

Lesson 8 – Daniel: Suffering for God’s sake.

...read Ton Chapter 2.

...recognized their importance as an individual to our Lord – regardless of what difficulty they are experiencing.

...identified key principles in Daniel 1-6 of suffering, persecution and the plan of God.

...listed ways God strengthens His Children when they face adversity.

...considered a situation from Daniel’s life they can identify with as an encouragement for them today.

Lesson 9 – Job: The Purpose of Suffering

...read Ton Chapter 3 and Forster “Suffering and the Love of God.”

...accepted – with understanding – that “all things work together for good...to those who are called according to His purposes...”

...understood suffering as a spiritual discipline of grace to be embraced rather than a painful thing to be feared.

...identified the fears we face and determined ways to overcome them.

...accepted the challenge to live in “fullness of joy...”

Lesson 10 – Theodicy: The Problem and Source of Evil

...read S&B – Chapter 16 and Ton p.292 and 497 plus Pdf’s Dau, Donovan, Hille.

...understood Genesis 50:19-21 in a fresh manner as applying to all evil/good conflicts.

...identified the ultimate goal of God in His relationship to good and evil.

...examined a potter’s wheel to understand God’s all-powerful love.

Lesson 11 – Persecution in the Gospels

...read S&B Chapter 8,14.

...identified examples of Persecution in the Gospels and what Jesus taught about Persecution.

...listed examples and teachings about Persecution as found in the Gospel.

...consolidated five key teaching about persecution from the Gospels

...written a 25-word statement to a new Christian identifying what to remember about persecution from the Gospels

Lesson 12/13 – Persecution in the Book of Acts (Part 1 & 2)

...read S&B – Chapter 2, 13; Penner Chapter 3, 6 and Cunningham Chapter 3.

...created a chart with the SORRL responses to persecution in the Book of Acts.

...discussed the meaning of Acts 14:22 and Acts 28:31.

...written a definition of ‘Boldness’.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OLD TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES OF PERSECUTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Isaiah: “The Suffering Servant”</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect Isaiah is the one Book of the Old Testament that was discovered almost intact in the Dead Sea Scrolls. The prophet Isaiah is quoted or referred to some eighty-five times in the New Testament. But several passages are cited or alluded to more than once; so that sixty-one separate passages are referred to in these eighty-five New Testament citations. Opening: Bible Quiz...In 3 minutes...in pairs...list any verses you know in NT that are quotations from Isaiah...try it first without looking in your Bible ☺</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read S&B Chapter 9; Ton Chapter 1 and SSTS Chapter 13. ...identified the importance of Isaiah’s teaching on “Suffering and Persecution”</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Big Picture of Suffering: persecution, religious intolerance, martyrdom. • Case Study: Isaiah <p>Our Unique Savior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We follow a unique leader—Jesus Christ—fully man and fully God, who modeled suffering servant hood. • Dying to self daily is God’s way for us to live in the power of the resurrection. <p>Our Unique Calling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we really have to suffer? • God builds His kingdom not on our achievements but on our sacrifices. • Living godly in Christ Jesus will bring persecution and sharing in the sufferings of Jesus. • Suffering in the will of God always has meaning and purpose. • Accepting persecution is the secret of our victory rather than the absence of trouble or the presence of prosperity and affluence. • Understanding The Gospel of the Kingdom of God <p>Chiasm Section 1: Is 52:13-15 - Exaltation Section 2: Is 53: 1-3 - Rejection Section 3: Is 53: 4-6 (most significant part of this Chiasm) with v5 as being the central message of this song. Section 4: Isaiah 53:7-9 - Rejection Section 5: Isaiah 53:7-9 -Exaltation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...memorized Is 53: 5 as being the most important message of this song.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation Since the fourth “suffering servant” song (in Isaiah) does not seem to be describing Israel, but a single person (Messiah). ...why did Messiah have to suffer? and what do we gain from suffering (persecution)? In pairs discuss your answers.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...identified 2-3 key unplanned / unanticipated benefits gained from suffering.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – Take Away Alan Yuan said of his 21 years and 8 months (suffering) in prison: “They were nothing compared to the Cross...” Identify the greatest “pain” you have experienced. How does it compare to our Lord’s crucifixion on the Cross?”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...compared their greatest “pain” to date to the pain of the Cross</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 7 *Isaiah – “The Suffering Servant”*

Isaiah was written during the exile....*“I am the Lord, there is no other!”*

Yahweh, the God of Israel is portrayed as absolute sovereign over all creation and nations.

“The strange paradox is that God’s method of solving the human problem of suffering, of pain, and of death *is* by suffering and pain and self-sacrifice to the point of death.” - Ton – p. 8

From an Old Testament perspective, Isaiah brings a 4th and new dimension to why suffering exists:

1. A punishment for sin (Genesis)
2. Consequences of parent’s sin (Exodus 20:5)
3. Training and educating (Judges)
4. **A method God uses to accomplish His purposes in the world**

We meet a person who has been called to live a life of suffering and humility – The Suffering Servant! Jews identify the “Suffering Servant” as describing Israel. However, the fourth “Suffering Servant” song (in Isaiah 53) does not seem to be describing Israel, but a single person (the Messiah).

Chiasm is a type of Israeli symmetrical poetry with the climax and focal point being in the middle of the poem or writing rather than at the end...like the shape of an hourglass. In this chiasm, sections 1 and 5 are parallel in theme and sections 2 and 4 are parallel in theme. Section 3 contains the focal point and central message.

Section 1: Is 52:13-15 - **Exaltation**

Section 2: Is 53: 1-3 - **Rejection**

Section 3: Is 53: 4-6 (most significant part of this Chiasm or poem) with verse 5 being the central message of this song. *“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him and by his wounds we are healed.”*

Section 4: Isaiah 53:7-9 - **Rejection**

Section 5: Isaiah 53:10-12 - **Exaltation**

Over and over the writers of the New Testament refer directly and indirectly to this passage when describing the Lord Jesus and His atoning work on Calvary’s cross.

The author, Ton, believes the theme of Isaiah 54-66 is identifying the task of the servants of God to spread the Good News to ALL Nations.

“The purpose of God is to bring all the nations under His authority and rule; yet He does not do this by force, but by the sacrifice and suffering of His chosen servants.” Ton p.19

After the redemption described in Isaiah 53, this message is to be taken to the ends of the world...In 66:22 Isaiah prophesies a “new heaven & a new earth” (same message as in Revelation).

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OLD TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES OF PERSECUTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Daniel: Suffering for God's sake.</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>Key Phrase: "By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>From the Book of Daniel discover how many times God says to Daniel "You are precious..." The angel Michael said to Daniel..."From the moment you began to pray, your prayer was heard..."</p>	<p>(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...read</i> Ton Chapter 2. <i>...recognized</i> their importance as an individual to our Lord – regardless of what difficulty they are experiencing</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Study: Daniel Chapters 1-6 <p>Divide the class into six groups of 1-5 per group depending on size of class. Assign one chapter to each group.</p> <p>Discover what we learn about suffering, persecution and the plan of God</p>	<p>(30 minutes)</p> <p><i>...identified</i> key principles in Daniel 1-6 of suffering, persecution and the plan of God</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Daniel 11: 32-35 (v 35 is possibly the key verse of Daniel regarding suffering of the believer – testing and purification) Discuss in twos/threes: <i>How does God help His people to stand strong when calamity strikes?</i></p>	<p>(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...listed</i> ways God strengthens His Children when they face adversity</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – Take Away</p> <p>For a quick summary of the lesson, have each person draw a sketch/picture of Daniel during one of his moments of testing.</p>	<p>(5 minutes)</p> <p><i>...considered</i> a situation from Daniel's life they can identify with as an encouragement for them today.</p>
<p>Materials</p> <p>Paper, colored pencils.</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 8
Daniel – Suffering for God’s sake

Daniel writes to show why the saints of the Most High undergo sufferings and martyrdoms.

Dominant ideas:

1. God is sovereign over the universe and history.
2. The purpose of God is to find people who are capable of handling authority and to whom He can entrust the jobs of ruling over His creation, not merely as a trial run, but for all eternity.
3. God helps His people stand strong in coming calamities.

Key Paragraph – Daniel 11:32-35 (read translation in TON on p. 32.)

Daniel 1-6:

Principles found for discipleship. How did they act or live for their Lord.

- Bloom where planted – even in name change and captivity in enemy camp. (Pastor John Neufeld: “Today we are Daniel in Babylon”)
- Daniel say the opportunity – proposed creative alternatives
- Be pure and refuse to compromise.
- Be careful in choosing what to stand up and fight for.
- Look for creative alternatives and “transforming initiatives.”
- Sovereignty of God.
- Clumped with “wise men of Babylon”.
- God shows up when we need Him to show His power and wisdom when He speaks.
- Trust God and be faithful in prayer.
- Praise God even under threat of death.
- Keeping close relationship with God and His purposes enables explanations of dreams and visions of unbelievers.
- God is in control. He will defend His name. He is in the fire with us. (The 4th man in the furnace)
- Do not bow the knee before other gods.
- Our God is able to deliver, but even if He doesn’t, we serve and worship ONLY Him.
- Our faithfulness causes even pagans to praise God.
- Jesus is with us even in the midst of fire and persecution.
- Daniel cultivated a reputation for being wise & non-violent & no bribes.

“That very night...” – story of Kabul, Afghanistan Church destroyed

What kind of people is God looking for? – from Ton

1. Obedient whatever the cost.
2. Faithful and persevering through trials and persecutions.
3. Passionately giving God all the glory and proclaiming His sovereignty.
4. Immersed in leading others to God.
5. Clear understanding of history and a longing for fulfillment in eternity.

BOOK OF DANIEL

What Chapters 1-6 teach us about Suffering, Persecution and The Plan of God:

Chapter	SUFFERING	PERSECUTION	PLAN OF GOD
1	V5 – forced to eat defiled food V7 – forced name change V4 – forced language, culture Identity stripped	V3 – forced relocation V2 – new state religion in control	V2 – handed over to Babylon V9 – God’s favor still upon them V17 – God gives knowledge “we are Daniel’s in Babylon”
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exile of Daniel and his friends • Given an impossible task • Threatened to die if they fail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King insisted they must interpret • The King’s dreams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel and his friends were elevated. • Protection of God extended to others. • Revelation extended to others.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffer in the fiery furnace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For their faith in their God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescued Daniel and his friends • King to see God’s power • Decree to worship God
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King Neb suffered for Pride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stripped of power and ate like a cow for 7 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To affirm God’s sovereignty in control of all Neb’s kingdom. • King Neb submitted to a Higher Power than he was.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humiliation – Jewish boys were defiled and lumped with magicians. No regard for their God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name taken from you • Holiness of God defiled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel’s gifts become a testimony • Daniel emboldened to speak the truth. • God uses His enemies to advance His Kingdom.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional suffering of separation from God. • Loneliness • Criticism, insults, fault finding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cast into the lion’s den • Death threat. • Test of his faith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God was glorified in Daniel’s stand for Him. • God revealed His greatness & protection. • Daniel showed his trust and absolute faith in the Living God. • Daniel’s boldness was a living testimony to others.

(prepared by TOPAD class at MBS – Malaysia 2013)

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OLD TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES OF PERSECUTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Job: The Purpose of Suffering</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>As long as we are on this earth, God does not disclose to us every one of His reasons for what happens in our lives.</p> <p>Ask the person beside you to think of a story of suffering or pain where God advanced His Kingdom through allowing this event.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...read</i> Ton Chapter 3 and Forster “Suffering and the Love of God.”</p> <p><i>...accepted</i> – with understanding – that “all things work together for good...to those who are called according to His purposes...”</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffering as Discipline • Suffering specifically for God’s Sake. • Case Study: Job <p>Do a “Walk-Thru-the-Book-of-Job” to highlight the purposes of suffering. (see notes next page)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we are caught in a cosmic conflict. • God needs to ‘prove’ to Satan that we have ‘free-will’ to curse Him. • God uses our faithfulness in praising Him during difficulties as part of His plan. • God’s timing is ‘meticulously-sovereign’ [nothing happens by chance or by luck]. The hairs on our head are numbered. The seconds in our life are determined. • We come to see “who is in control” rather than “what is happening...” <p>Let’s Also Consider the New Testament Purposes of Suffering:</p> <p>Phil 1:29 - Suffering produces:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discernment / to clarify what is important (Romans 5:3-5) 2. Discipline / to purge out the dross / discipleship (Hebrews 12:5-7) 3. Humility / to keep me from being conceited (2 Corinthians 12:7) 4. Opportunity / to comfort others (2 Corinthians 1:4) 5. Christ-likeness / to understand the sufferings of Jesus (Phil. 3:10) 6. Love / to conform us to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28) 	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p><i>...understood</i> suffering as a spiritual discipline of grace to be embraced rather than a painful thing to be feared.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Job says, “The thing I feared has come upon me...”</p> <p>On sticky-notes write out the things you “Fear” (one per note)</p> <p>Come to the board...place (and group) the fears of the class.</p> <p>In pairs discuss how to overcome these fears.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...identified</i> the fears we face and determined ways to overcome them.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – Take Away</p> <p>“So what?” – What changes will I make in my life based on my understanding of the Book of Job?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p><i>...accepted</i> the challenge to live in “fullness of joy...”</p>
<p>Materials</p> <p>Sticky notes...pens</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 9

Job – The Purpose of Suffering

Job: Questions and reasons why good people who love God suffer.

Job was a righteous man. Satan comes to God and challenges against Job stating that he will fall away when suffering comes upon him and his family & friends turn away from him.

Obvious question:

Why does God most often answers our “why” questions with the answer “who?”

“Who are you going to trust?”

There is often mystery with suffering. God doesn’t always disclose His reasons (He sees the end from the beginning, as He is an infinite Being).

Romans 8:28...is best understood in hindsight (as we get older). There might be a cosmic dimension...i.e., to defeat Satan (it is beyond us, but to show us His glory as there was no reason for Job’s suffering because Job didn’t sin).

The process of suffering purifies us and refines (Job 23:10). In Job 42:5, in the past, Job’s experience of God was theoretical, but following his suffering he saw the Lord as being real...he experienced God in his life or experience.

1. As long as we are on this earth, God does not disclose to us every one of His reasons for what happens in our lives.
2. Our suffering may have a cosmic dimension to it. There may be reasons for our suffering that are totally beyond our perception. Our suffering may very well serve to glorify God and defeat Satan.
3. While suffering is a test of our fidelity to God, the process by which we are tested also changes us for the better. Job: “When he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold...” (23:10).

In the epilogue, we find Job’s account of what he gained from his sufferings: “My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you...” In his suffering, Job’s eyes were opened and God became “visible” to him. Only there did Job come to personally experience the presence of God.

Let’s Also Consider the New Testament Purposes of Suffering (See Philippians 1:29)

Suffering produces:

1. Discernment - to clarify what is important (Romans 5:3-5)
2. Discipline - to purge out the dross / discipleship (Hebrews 12:5-7)
3. Humility - to keep me from being conceited (2 Corinthians 12:7)
4. Opportunity - to comfort others (2 Corinthians 1:4)
5. Christ-likeness - to understand the sufferings of Jesus (Phil. 3:10)
6. Love - to conform us to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28)
7. Model - to give the body of Christ a picture of what Christ suffered for them (Colossians 1:24-26)
8. Testing - to prove or reveal the genuineness of your faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OLD TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES OF PERSECUTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theodicy: The Problem and Source of Evil</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Write a definition of “Theodicy” on sticky notes – bring to front of class Read – place on board – form clusters – develop a definition.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read S&B – Chapter 16 and Ton p.292 and 497 plus Pdf’s Dau, Donovan, Hille.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theodicy (the problem and source of evil). <p>The key in this session is to establish biblical theological reasons for persecution: “Why does a just and loving God allow His children to suffer at the hands of evil men?” Ton states: “<i>God’s method in solving problems is to allow suffering to happen.</i>” Help the class to see the victories achieved in Scripture through suffering. “Though He was a Son, yet learned He obedience through the things which He suffered...” (Hebrews 5:8). Looking at where God has allowed suffering and is allowing persecution what are the results for His Kingdom as a result?</p> <p>Walk through the scriptures related to good and evil</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...understood Genesis 50:19-21 in a fresh manner as applying to all evil/good conflicts.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>What is the ultimate purpose of God – whether by pain or by comfort? To be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...identified the ultimate goal of God in His relationship to good and evil.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Hand out picture of potter’s wheel (see diagram) – Examine Jeremiah 18. Tell one person what it means to you</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...examined a potter’s wheel to understand God’s all-powerful love.</p>
<p>Materials</p> <p>Picture of a potter’s wheel – one for each person as a take home with them.</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 10
Theodicy – The Problem and Source of Evil

Devotional: Exodus 3: 1-9

- V 7-9: God has seen the affliction, heard their cry, and will answer them.
- Under persecution, a person tends to not see the full picture of what God is doing in the larger picture. The Lord saved His people from starvation, He predicted that the Israelites would be taken back to their land (Gen 15:12-15), God saw their misery and heard their cry & suffering (He is one who sees, hears and answers).

Isaiah 45:7 (*'The One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these'*).

There are reasons why God uses evil and non-God fearing people (ie: King Cyrus)

Book: Ton v 8. God's method in solving problems is to allow suffering to happen.

God's principles of suffering as believed by the Old Testament people:

- Sin: Fall of man
- Sins of the parents: generational sins can affect others in the family
- Correction, Training, Education
-

Handouts: John 11; Jonah 1; Job 1; Psalm 73

1. We all suffer and we wonder why we suffer. John 11. Raising Lazarus from the dead. Reason: for God's glory.
2. Christians feel compelled to give a meaningful and rational explanation for God, good and evil. (1 Peter 3:15)
3. Jonah 1: To discipline us when we sin...building our character/testing of our faith. Gaining a more wider theology (that God is the God of the whole world, not just the God of Israel)
4. Unbelievers have denied you can rationally believe in a God who is both all good and all powerful. Ps 73: (17, 24) conclusion that the Lord will straighten everything out. I must keep focused on the Lord.
5. If God were good, he would want to eliminate evil says the skeptic.
6. Job 1: God was making a statement to Satan? God knew what was in Job's heart and wanted Satan to see it very clearly. The Lord was involved in all of this with parameters. God is sovereign. In the end, Job did not blame God. We tend to fear testing. "I have heard of you, but now I see you!" A closer relationship with the Lord happened. What is our reason for worshipping God...to gain something or for who He is.

God's ultimate goal, whether by suffering, persecution or freedom, is for us to be conformed to the image of His Son.

Hebrews 12:3-10

Romans 8:29.



<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OLD TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES OF PERSECUTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Persecution in the Gospels</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>																								
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect In pairs – make a list of either “teachings by Jesus about Persecution” or “examples of Persecution” as found in Matthew-Mark-Luke-John Depending on size of class either leave it open to all Gospels or assign one group to each of Matthew-Mark-Luke-John.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read S&B Chapter 8,14. ...identified examples of Persecution in the Gospels and what Jesus taught about Persecution.</p>																								
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>This lesson builds and expands the introductory concepts from the teachings of Jesus as discussed in Lesson 1 and 2 (and found in Matthew 10 and Luke 6).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>H Hate You</th> <th>E Exclude You</th> <th>I Insult You</th> <th>R Reject You</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Love your enemies</td> <td>Do good to those who hate you</td> <td>Bless those who curse you</td> <td>Pray for those who spitefully use you</td> </tr> <tr> <td>One who strikes you</td> <td>One who takes cloak</td> <td>One who asks (for something)</td> <td>One who asks you to lend to them</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Offer other cheek</td> <td>Offer your tunic</td> <td>Give</td> <td>Do not ask for it back</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Love your enemies</td> <td>Do good</td> <td>Lend expecting nothing in return</td> <td>Be merciful</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Judge not</td> <td>Condemn not</td> <td>Forgive</td> <td>Give</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	H Hate You	E Exclude You	I Insult You	R Reject You	Love your enemies	Do good to those who hate you	Bless those who curse you	Pray for those who spitefully use you	One who strikes you	One who takes cloak	One who asks (for something)	One who asks you to lend to them	Offer other cheek	Offer your tunic	Give	Do not ask for it back	Love your enemies	Do good	Lend expecting nothing in return	Be merciful	Judge not	Condemn not	Forgive	Give	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...listed examples and teachings about Persecution as found in the Gospel.</p>
H Hate You	E Exclude You	I Insult You	R Reject You																						
Love your enemies	Do good to those who hate you	Bless those who curse you	Pray for those who spitefully use you																						
One who strikes you	One who takes cloak	One who asks (for something)	One who asks you to lend to them																						
Offer other cheek	Offer your tunic	Give	Do not ask for it back																						
Love your enemies	Do good	Lend expecting nothing in return	Be merciful																						
Judge not	Condemn not	Forgive	Give																						
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>In groups of 2-3 decide what are the “Top 5” teachings in the Gospels that apply to your region/church/country.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...consolidated five key teaching about persecution from the Gospels</p>																								
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Write a 25-word letter to a new Christian that starts with: “From the Gospels remember this my sister...[insert 25 words]” Ask for volunteers to read their statements.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...written a 25-word statement to a new Christian identifying what to remember about persecution from the Gospels</p>																								
<p>Materials Note paper if needed</p>																									

Reference Notes for Lesson 11
Persecution in the Gospels

Survey of the Gospels

Review:

Jesus prepares His disciples to be a “*martyr*” (a witness; or a ‘martyr’) Luke 6: 22-36

HEIR (counter-culture response from Jesus):

- Hate you (love your enemies)
- Exclude you (do good)
- Insult you (bless them)
- Reject You (pray for them)

Jesus Prepares His Disciples to be a martyr/witness Matthew 10 – MARTYR

- M-Misinterpret (misunderstood) v 14
- A-Alienated (rejected) v 14
- R-Restricted (detained) v17,19
- T-Terrorized (abused) v 17
- Y-“You-Run” (pursued...persecuted) v 25
- R-RIP (killed) v 21, 28

Book: See Ton page 127... “when the community’s religious beliefs are threatened, the people will respond violently.”

Luke 6:22-38			
<i>“Blessed are you when men...”</i>			
H	E	I	R
Hate You	Exclude You	Insult You	Reject You
Here is what you will “do” to them...			
Love your enemies	Do good to those who hate you	Bless those who curse you	Pray for those who spitefully use you
However...if someone...			
Strikes you	Takes your cloak	Asks (for something)	Asks you to lend to them
Then you shall...			
Offer other cheek	Offer your tunic	Give	Do not ask for it back
...and...			
Love your enemies	Do good	Lend expecting nothing in return	Be merciful
...and...			
Judge not	Condemn not	Forgive	Give

**Handout from Dr. Glen Stassen's Lectures
during the Central Spring Lectures, March 12-13, 2009**

The Fourteen Triads Of The Sermon On The Mount: Matt 5:21-7:12

Traditional Righteousness	Vicious Cycle	Transforming Initiative
1. You shall not kill	Being angry, or saying, You fool!	Go, be reconciled
2. You shall not commit adultery	Looking with lust is adultery in the heart.	Remove the cause of temptation (cf. Mk 9:43ff.)
3. Whoever divorces, give a certificate	Divorcing involves you in adultery	(Be reconciled: I Cor 7:11)
4. You shall not swear falsely	Swearing by anything involves you in a false claim	Let your yes be yes, and your no be no
5. Eye for eye, tooth for tooth	Retaliating violently or revengefully, by evil means	Turn the other cheek Give tunic and cloak Go the second mile Give to beggar & borrower
6. Love neighbor & hate enemy	hating enemies is the same vicious cycle that you see in the Gentiles & tax collectors	Love enemies, pray for your persecutors; be all-inclusive as your Father in heaven is
7. When you give alms,	practicing righteousness for show	but give in secret; your Father will reward you
8. When you pray,	practicing righteousness for show	but pray in secret; your Father will reward you
9. When you pray,	practicing righteousness for show	Therefore pray like this: Our Father....
10. When you fast,	practicing righteousness for show	but dress with joy; your Father will reward you
11. Do not pile up treasures on earth (cf. Luke 12:16-31)	moth & rust destroy, and thieves enter & steal	But pile up treasures in heaven
12. No one can serve two masters	Serving God & wealth, worrying about food & clothes	But seek first God's reign and God's justice/righteousness
13. Do not judge, lest you be judged	Judging others means you'll be judged by same measure	First take the log out of your own eye
14. Do not give holy things to dogs, nor pearls to pigs	They will trample them and tear you to pieces	Give your trust in prayer to your Father in heaven

See Glen Stassen, *Living the Sermon on the Mount* (Jossey-Bass); "The Fourteen Triads of the Sermon on the Mount, Matt 5:2-7:12, *Journal of Biblical Literature* (summer 2003); *Kingdom Ethics*, chapter 6 and following chapters. <http://documents.fuller.edu/sot/faculty/stassen>

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OLD TESTAMENT/NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVES OF PERSECUTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 12 / 13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Persecution in the Book of Acts (Part 1)</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>This is a combined Lesson (12 & 13) of 110 minutes</p> <p>Begin with a discussion of the S&B Chapters and readings...what they read...how it impacted them...etc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(20 minutes)</p> <p>...read S&B – Chapter 2, 13; Penner Chapter 3, 6 and Cunningham Chapter 3.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Assign a section of ACTS to each individual (or to a pair) and ask them to identify the following five part format: (Write on board ahead of time)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Situation – What was the situation facing the disciples and the church? 2. Origin – What was the origin and nature of the persecution? 3. Reaction – How did the disciples and the church react to the persecution? 4. Results – What happened as a result of the persecution? 5. Lessons – What can we apply to our lives today? <p>Give each group time for feedback.</p> <p>Summarize responses.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(60 minutes)</p> <p>...created a chart with the SORRL responses to persecution in the Book of Acts.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Acts 14:22....we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of Heaven. Psalm 2 is the most often passage quoted in the NT. Why?</p> <p>Acts 28:31 ends with Paul stating that he lived in the house preaching the Word of God openly and “unhindered”...even during persecution. How does this apply today?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(20 minutes)</p> <p>...discussed the meaning of Acts 14:22 and Acts 28:31.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response – Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Write in 25 words: “Boldness to me means...”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...written a definition of ‘Boldness’.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 12 and 13
Persecution in the Book of Acts (Part 1 & 2)

Class exercise: Sections assigned to groups of 2-3 to find the S-O-R-R-L (sample below)

(SAMPLE)	Antioch (Acts 13:42-52)	Iconium (Acts 14:1-7)	Lystra (Acts 14:18-23)
Situation	Interested people, but some Jews were jealous	Entered the city and began to share the Gospel to both Jews & Gentiles v1 (they entered the synagogue)	
Origin	Jealousy due to attention, v49, 45 Stirred up discontent among prominent Jews v50	Those who disbelieved stirred up the minds, embittering some people	
Reaction	Paul & Barnabas spoke out boldly v46	Paul & Barnabas spoke out boldly v3	
Results	Drove Paul & Barnabas were pushed out of town v50 -Paul decided to leave those who didn't want Christ (Jews) and changed his ministry to Gentiles -Paul & Barnabas were rejoicing in the Lord	An attempt was made on their lives to mistreat and stone them v5	V19, Stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city (thinking that he was dead). V20 Disciples just stood around. V21: after being stoned, Paul got up and went into the city
Lesson		Acts 14:22-23 As Jesus modeled for the disciples, so the disciples (Paul) did this for these new believers.	V23- strengthening & encouraged the believers -expect persecution -appointed elders -Prayed with fasting for those who believed commending them to the Lord.

PERSECUTION IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Why early church leaders were ready to Suffer and Die!

1. They had an understanding of the sovereignty of God. God is in absolute control. See the prayer in Acts 4:24-30.
2. They viewed suffering as a privilege and honor. Acts 5:41.
3. Nothing stopped them from proclaiming the Good News. Acts 5:42.
4. Paul “encouraged” new believers with the statement: *“We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God...”* (Acts 14:22).
5. They had a clear perception of the glory of martyrdom. Stephen was a model.

Acts 28:31 – Boldly and without hindrance he (Paul) preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ...”

Each section of this study follows a five-part format:

1. SITUATION

What was the situation facing the disciples and the Church?

2. ORIGIN

What was the origin and nature of the Persecution?

3. REACTION

How did the disciples and the Church react to the Persecution?

4. RESULTS

What happened as a result of the Persecution?

5. LESSONS

What can we apply to our lives today?

-1-

Jerusalem I

Acts 2:1-13; 40-47; 3:1-11 and Chapter 4

-2-

Jerusalem II

Acts 5:12-6:1

-3-

Acts 6:2 - 8:4

-4-

Acts 9:19b-31

-5-

Acts 11:19 - 12:19

-6-

1st Missionary Journey

Pisidian Antioch – Acts 13:42-52

Iconium – Acts 14:1-7 -- Lystra – Acts 14:18-23

-7-

2nd Missionary Journey

Philippi – Acts 16:16-40 -- Thessalonica – Acts 17:1-10

Berea – Acts 17:10-15 -- Corinth – Acts 18:5-17

-8-

3rd Missionary Journey

Acts 19:1-41

-9-

Jerusalem

Acts 21 & 22

-10-

Acts 22-28

SUMMARY

LESSONS LEARNED AS A RESULT OF PERSECUTION

What can we apply to our lives today?

1.
 - The Holy Spirit gives uneducated people the courage to declare the Word of God. (4:8-13)
 - People notice when we have “been with Jesus” (4:13).
 - Although praying for protection is biblically acceptable, praying for boldness brings God’s powerful blessing (4:31).
 - Peter later reminds us: “Do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.” (1 Peter 4:12)
 - “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2 Timothy 3:12)
2.
 - Though obedience to civil authorities has been mandated in Romans 13, obedience to God’s law is a higher priority than obedience to civil and religious authorities.
 - There are no situations of life that should stop us from sharing our faith in Jesus Christ – the Risen Messiah.
 - Peter tells us to rejoice in suffering for Jesus because we will also rejoice in sharing His glory (1 Peter 4:13 and see also Romans 8:17).
3.
 - Martyrdom of one believer should not be a deterrent to other believers to witness about Jesus.
 - Martyrdom may be an end result of witnessing but this passage shows it happens to a small group of individuals (Stephen) while the majority was spared by God’s sovereign grace. “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.” (8:4)
 - Suffering in the will of God has meaning and purpose:
 - It was a catalyst to fulfilling Jesus command (1:8 & 8:1)
 - A persecutor becomes a believer and church leader (Acts 9-28)
 - Wherever you are – and in whatever circumstances you find yourself - you can share about Jesus.
4.
 - A powerful proclamation of the Gospel can incite the ungodly to want to kill you.
 - Pray for persecutors that they will become followers of Jesus.
 - There are times in the face of persecution when God says to run in order to serve Him another day.
5.
 - Christians scattered by persecution can become powerful catalysts for the growth of the church and the encouragement of believers. (11:19-23,26)
 - Pray earnestly for Church leaders who are being persecuted. (12:5)
6.
 - Spiritual discernment is necessary to know when and how to respond to persecution.
 - We need to “gather around” and intercede for church planters who are being severely persecuted. (14:20)
7.
 - Not all audiences are equally receptive to the gospel message.
 - Sometimes persecution is allowed by God to move us on to a more receptive audience for the Gospel.
 - Persecution causes us to re-focus our target group and re-evaluate our message to meet the needs of the new individuals God brings into our re-directed path.

8.
 - There are times when we need to be wise and stay away from dangerous situations. Listening to wise counsel may avoid unnecessary persecution. (19:31)
9.
 - Another valid response to persecution is to appeal to a responsible authority for your legal rights. (22:25)
10.
 - When walking in the will of God, nothing can stop the bold proclamation of the Gospel – not even chains and imprisonment!

Questions

Lesson 1 – Identify principles to help determine when to pray for protection – and when to pray for boldness.

Lesson 2 – When is it right in God’s eyes for you to disobey civil authorities in your region? Consider: a) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego disobeyed the King’s command to worship the idol; b) Daniel refused to stop praying to the God of Heaven; c) Peter and John continued to preach in the name of Christ after being told not to preach; and d) Paul left Damascus ‘over the wall’ without an ‘exit visa’ through the official city gate.

Lesson 3 – How do we overcome the ‘fear of death’?

Lesson 4 – Paul teaches: “...that requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for ...all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Make a list of the primary authorities in your region (National leader, mayor, and education officials with specific ‘requests’, ‘prayers’, ‘intercessions’ and ‘thanksgiving’ for them.

Lesson 5 – Think of one person you know is being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ – today. Consider what you or your group might do to assist and encourage this person (a letter, a visit, gift etc)

Lesson 6 – Discernment is referred to both as a spiritual gift in 1 Corinthians 12:10 and by the writer of Hebrews as an evidence mature believers have “trained themselves to distinguish [discern] good from evil.” Since we are sent out as “lambs among wolves” (Luke 10:3) how does discernment protect us from possible persecution?

Lesson 7 – Sometimes resistance to the Gospel causes us to alter our approach to sharing the Gospel with spiritual success. Other times the person is ready to receive the Good News. Discuss the difference.

Lesson 8 – “Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him.” (19:30). Describe a time when you wanted to do something that you thought was important but were persuaded by wise counsel to avoid the situation – with a positive result.

Lesson 9 – When is it appropriate to “appeal to Caesar” (a higher authority) regarding our protection for preaching the Gospel?

Lesson 10 – “Boldly and without hindrance he preached the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.” (28:31). Why are we so afraid to share our faith? How do we overcome our fears?

DAY 3

ISSUES RELATED TO PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING

Learning Objectives: A key phrase in writing Learning Objectives is: “By the end of this Lesson the participants *will have...*” Learning Objectives written in the Past tense show what the Learner *will know, do, or be* at the end of the time together.

Learners will have... *written...read...prepared...practiced...developed...designed...identified...etc.*

Lesson 12/13 – Persecution in the Book of Acts (Part 1 & 2)

...read S&B – Chapter 2, 13; Penner Chapter 3, 6 and Cunningham Chapter 3.
...created a chart with the SORRL responses to persecution in the Book of Acts.
...discussed the meaning of Acts 14:22 and Acts 28:31.
...written a definition of ‘Boldness’.

Lesson 14 – The Epistles of Paul and Peter (Prison Epistles)

...read S&B Chapter 15; Ton Chapter 9; Pdf Piper.
...identified principles of self-control, alertness and clear-minded.
...listed the top five teachings of Peter/Paul on the topic of Persecution/Suffering.
...memorized a verse written by Peter/Paul related to persecution or suffering.

Lesson 15 – Hebrews: Chapter 11-13

...read Ton Chapter 8.
...listed reasons why church fathers were ready to suffer and die.
...joyfully considered accepting the plundering of their property ☺
...identified verses that help us show gratitude for our salvation.
...identified one item they will ‘lose’ (give away) to experience the plundering of your property.

Lesson 16 – Revelation: The Overcomers

...read S&B Chapter 17; TON Chapter 10 and Johnson “Discipleship on the Edge”.
...identified modern ‘symbols of Babylon’.
...become overcomers by accepting Rev.12:11 as their life principle.
...defined what it means to “overcome”.
...drawn an image of Rev. 12:11

Lesson 17 – Guilt, Shame and Fear-Based Cultures

...read Muller: “Honor and Shame”
...identified the key principles from Muller’s text to identify Guilt-Shame-Fear based cultures.
...reinforced their understanding of Guilt-Shame-Fear culture.
...affirmed the value of saving a life – in any culture!

Lesson 18 – Martyrdom, Suffering and Persecution

...read S&B Chapter 4,5,23,30,32; Penner Chapter 2 and Ton Chapter 5 plus Pdf Westpetal
...defined ‘Martyrdom’.
...understood the need for each disciple/follower of Jesus Christ to be ready to live – or die – for Him.
...written a 60-second response to “*Why does God allow Suffering and Persecution?*”
...prayed for boldness to speak the gospel of God amid much opposition.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISSUES RELATED TO PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 12 / 13</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Persecution in the Book of Acts (Part 1)</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>This is a combined Lesson (12 & 13) of 110 minutes Begin with a discussion of the S&B Chapters and readings...what they read...how it impacted them...etc.</p>	<p>(20 minutes) ...read S&B – Chapter 2, 13; Penner Chapter 3, 6 and Cunningham Chapter 3.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content Assign a section of ACTS to each individual (or to a pair) and ask them to identify the following five part format: (Write on board ahead of time)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Situation – What was the situation facing the disciples and the church? 2. Origin – What was the origin and nature of the persecution? 3. Reaction – How did the disciples and the church react to the persecution? 4. Results – What happened as a result of the persecution? 5. Lessons – What can we apply to our lives today? <p>Give each group time for feedback. Summarize responses.</p>	<p>(60 minutes) ...created a chart with the SORRL responses to persecution in the Book of Acts.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation Discussion Acts 14:22....we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of Heaven. Psalm 2 is the most often passage quoted in the NT. Why? Acts 28:31 ends with Paul stating that he lived in the house preaching the Word of God openly and “unhindered”...even during persecution. How does this apply today?</p>	<p>(20 minutes) ...discussed the meaning of Acts 14:22 and Acts 28:31.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response – Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Write in 25 words: “Boldness to me means...”</p>	<p>(10 minutes) ...written a definition of ‘Boldness’.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISSUES RELATED TO PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 14</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Epistles of Paul and Peter (Prison Epistles)</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect From the book “Prison Power” handout the List of 12 Biblical Principles for Christians facing arrest and imprisonment. Ask each one to identify the 3 they find most difficult to accept – and tell the person beside them “why?”</p>	<p>(10 minutes) ...read S&B Chapter 15, 39; Penner Chapter 4; Ton Chapter 7, 9 plus Pdf: “Preparing for Prison”; Pdf Piper. ...identified three challenging principles learned from biblical prisoners.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Interrogators have one agenda, gaining points from their superior for their next promotion! Never think that you can endure and remain silent forever. <i>Given enough time – and enough pain – every human on Earth will admit to being born on the Moon!</i> The best response during difficult moments is to remain calm, silent, close your eyes, pray and endure it. This has been the effective response for imprisoned and interrogated Christians in China.</p> <p>Ton says: p. 127 – “Every community has certain elements that it holds dear and considers vital for its very existence. Among the most precious are a community’s religious beliefs and practices. Whenever these elements of culture are threatened, the community reacts in self-defense, often with violence...”</p> <p>Debate: Divide the room into two sides to debate the topic: “We should tell people about Christ” – vs – “We should just live our Christian faith silently.”</p> <p>Review scriptures from attached sheet to support the teachings of Paul and Peter as they relate to the above debate.</p>	<p>(30 minutes)</p> <p>...reviewed the key principles for dealing with one’s arrest and imprisonment – based on biblical principles.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Role Play a scenario where a Christian is being interrogated.</p>	<p>(10 minutes)</p> <p>...observed a role play of a simulated ‘prison’ interrogation.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Write a note to your son or daughter explaining why you are in prison.</p>	<p>(5 minutes)</p> <p>...written a note explaining why they are in prison.</p>
<p>Materials: Note paper and pens if needed</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 14

The Epistles of Paul and Peter (Prison Epistles)

Testimony from a leader of six churches in SE Asia with 500 believers and 20 co-workers

"We are often invited to the police office for questioning, detained for one, two or three days. But in those tough situations, we relied on the encouraging words of the Bible. We memorized portions of it, and it became my source of strength. Of course, I was afraid during those times, but I just remember what God's word says in Hebrews that Jesus is the author and finisher of my faith (Hebrews 12:2). That verse gave me strength. Another one is in Matthew 16:18, where it says that the enemy will not overcome the church of Christ."

12 Principles of Prison Power

from *Prison Power: How God Uses Imprisonment to Enlarge His Kingdom*

by Jim Cunningham and Paul Estabrooks © 1999

Principle #1—What man intends for evil, to hinder the advancement of God's Kingdom - God uses for good to advance His Kingdom.

Principle #2—Moments of isolation in confinement have proven at times to be times of special visitation by the triune God beyond the norm.

Principle #3—Prophets who declare the Word of the Lord are subject to attacks by individuals and authorities – including “religious individuals and authorities” – hostile to both the prophet and the Word of God.

Principle #4—Being bold and speaking the truth in love may not always reap immediate, positive results...and may cause unjust imprisonment

Principle #5—Speaking only what the Lord (the Bible) says, may mean persecution and imprisonment, but God's truth ultimately prevails.

Principle #6—To be unjustly incarcerated can bring a disproportionate amount of attention and respect from the same authorities who are opposing the spread of God's Kingdom. They soon realize they are not arresting criminals but fighting against God Himself.

Principle #7—To confront an authority on a matter of personal morality means one must be prepared to pay the price for the confrontation – even one's life

Principle #8—Persecution, including imprisonment, often increases rather than diminishes one's boldness, which in turn multiplies the number of new believers being added to the Church.

Principle #9—Being arrested for one's faith tends to increase prayer support by those who remain “free” - for the one arrested and for the Kingdom of God.

Principle #10—God in His holy sovereignty may use a prison experience to encourage His servants, glorify Himself and advance His Kingdom beyond our expectations.

Principle #11—God will be with us to give us His strength in any situation we face.

Principle #12—God is sovereign and will accomplish His will and plan of exalting Himself. Being in prison can advance the Gospel by making the entire church more courageous and fearless. (*Philippians 1*)

Reference Notes for Lesson 14 *The Epistles of Paul and Peter (Prison Epistles)*

Paul's life was predicted to be a life of suffering for Jesus. (Acts 9:16)

At Paul's conversion Jesus asked: "Why are you persecuting ME?"

Paul's life was threatened from the very beginning of his conversion. Acts 9.

See Ton: p. 127 re Thessalonians

Every community has certain elements that it holds dear and considers vital for its very existence. Among the most precious are a community's religious beliefs and practices. Whenever these elements of culture are threatened, the community reacts in self-defense, often with violence..."

Paul encountered this everywhere he went. Thus suffering and glory are parallel themes in his teachings: Romans 8:17

2 Thess. 3:1-5- Request for prayer

- That the message of God will spread rapidly
- Delivery from evil men (those who were persecuting them), but the Lord will protect them from the enemy (Satan, the "evil one").
- 1 Corinthians 16:5-9 Paul stayed in Ephesus the longest out of every other place. There were many who opposed him and the message (growth of the Church).

Galatians 2:20- the goal of Paul's life, his personal testimony. Dying to yourself, the challenges are almost meaningless.

Romans 5: 3-5- Paul expresses the reasons to rejoice in persecution...to become more like Christ.

Romans 8:35-39 - "who" can separate us from Christ's love?" He lists various things. Vs. 37 we conquer through Christ.

Book: Ton page 187- "Our problem in the West is that we have always been taught that grace is the free gift of God given *to us*. We were never taught that grace is something meant to transform us into *sacrificial givers to others*, leading us into a sacrificial involvement in the cause of Christ and His gospel."

Ton. p 147 – What the Sufferings of Paul are said to do:

- they manifest through him (Paul) the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Christ in every place.
- they reflect the glory of the Lord as in a mirror.
- they enable unbelievers to see the light the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christians.
- they manifest the life of Jesus in and through a mortal body or flesh.
- they spread the saving and enabling grace of God in Christ.
- they cause the Church to experience the life of Christ more abundantly.

1 Peter 1:11 – glory follows suffering

1 Peter 2:20-21

1 Peter 3:9+14

1 Peter 4:12-13 + 15

Themes of self-control, alertness and clear-minded

1 Peter 1:13 – to be holy

1 Peter 4:7 – end of world – pray

1 Peter 5:8-11 – to resist Satan

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISSUES RELATED TO PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 15</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hebrews – Chapters 11-13</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Why were early church leaders ready to Suffer and Die? Ask the person beside you for answers...place on Sticky</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They had an understanding of the sovereignty of God. God is in absolute control. See prayer of Acts 4. 2. They viewed suffering as a privilege and honor. Acts 5:41. 3. Nothing stopped them from proclaiming the Good News. Acts 5:42. 4. Paul “encouraged” new believers with the statement: “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God...” (Acts 14:22). 5. Had a clear perception of the glory of martyrdom. Stephen parallels Jesus – was a model. 	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...read</i> Ton Chapter 8. <i>...listed</i> reasons why church fathers were ready to suffer and die.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content Review attached notes: Note the chiasm in Hebrews 10:32-34: (Penner footnote #144) A – you endured a hard struggle with sufferings... (v. 32,33a) B – you were partners with those so treated (v. 33b) B’ – you had compassion with those in prison (v. 34a) A’ – you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property... (v. 34b)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p><i>...joyfully</i> accepted the plundering of their property ☺</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Walking through Hebrews 11-12-13, identify verses that help us “show gratitude” to God for receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken (12:28 NASV) Share verses with group.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...identified</i> verses that help us show gratitude for our salvation.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Scripture says everything is going to be burned up (2 Peter 3:10). Identify one item worth one day’s wages you will give away to experience a sense of ‘loss’ – similar to the loss of a theft or fire.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p><i>...identified</i> one item they will ‘lose’ (give away) to experience the plundering of your property.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 15

Hebrews: Chapters 11-13

Hebrews (written to severely persecuted Believers from a Jewish background)-

- Hebrews 2:14-15- Christ came to free those who were afraid of death.
- Hebrews 10:32-39- persevere...hang in there! This gives insight to whom this book is written...endured suffering, stood side by side with those who were persecuted, had lost various things, such as property.

Hebrews 11- those who suffered persecution with positive (great victories) & negative results (tortured and death). His quote stating that the world was not worthy of them vs 38.

Hebrews 12:1-3 – message is: ***“Fix our eyes on Jesus”*** (not on the suffering that you are enduring, just as Jesus did...as seen in vs 3)

- Characteristics of those who fix their eyes on Jesus:
- vs 3 we will endure as a hardship.
- vs 14 living in peace with everyone, no bitterness or sexually immoral or godless...

Hebrews 13: 1-3....

- Love each others as brothers.
 - Be hospitable (entertain strangers)
 - Remember those who are in prison (as if you were in prison with them.....ie: bringing food to them, writing letters, etc)
 - Growth in the church in Iran is explosive! Testimony: Two young women were arrested and imprisoned for 1 year. People in the west had written to them to encourage them. After they were released, they waited for another year, they then spoke up....stating that they received 40-50 letters/day...however, they never received them, but the guards were reading them and telling them that they were receiving letters, and so they were encouraged just to know that people were writing to them.
 - Honor marriage.
 - Be content – free from the love of money.
 - Imitate your leaders.
 - Message is to keep our eyes focused on Jesus!
-

Why early church leaders were ready to Suffer and Die!

1. They had an understanding of the sovereignty of God. God is in absolute control. Acts 4 prayer.
2. They viewed suffering as a privilege and honor. Acts 5:41.
3. Nothing stopped them from proclaiming the Good News. Acts 5:42.
4. Paul “encouraged” new believers with the statement: “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God...” (Acts 14:22).
5. Had a clear perception of the glory of martyrdom. Stephen parallels Jesus – was a model.

Acts 28:31 – Boldly and without hindrance he (Paul) preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ...”

Hebrews

Jesus is:

1. Heir of all things
2. Crowned with glory – perfected in suffering
3. High Priest – mediator
4. Without sin –Do not harden your heart
5. High Priest – obedient in suffering
6. High Priest
7. Better than Melchizadek
8. Superior to High Priest
- 9.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISSUES RELATED TO PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 16</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Revelation - The Overcomers</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Ask each person to identify a modern parallel/example to the Symbols of Babylon:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leaving the Living God out of the equation 2. Sensuality 3. Injustice 4. Worship of products 5. Violence 6. Deceptions and counterfeits 7. Idolatry. 	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read S&B Chapter 17; TON Chapter 10 and Johnson “Discipleship on the Edge”. ...identified modern ‘symbols of Babylon’.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Review the Chiastic structure – and notes – of what it means to be an “overcomer”...12:11... And they overcame him because of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the blood of the Lamb and because of b) the word of their testimony and c) they did not love their life even to death. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelation - The Overcomers • City of Babylon vs. The New Jerusalem 	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...become overcomers by accepting Rev.12:11 as their life principle.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>When Jesus said, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”, he said this before they arrested him. What did Jesus mean?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...defined what it means to “overcome”</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Ask each participant to draw a picture of Revelation 12 verse 11. Share pictures with group.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...drawn an image of Rev. 12:11</p>
<p>Materials</p> <p>Paper, pens, colored pens etc</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 16 ***Revelation -The Overcomers***

Revelation: longest letter in the New Testament. It is written to an oral society and so it was written to be read out loud.

1. Foundational conviction:

Things are not only as they seem. Jesus has already won. The book calls us to be a radical disciple, dedicated to worship the Lamb in a world that is feverishly worshipping the “beast”.

2. What kind of Literature?

John uses three words for the book’s genre:

- a letter
- a prophecy
- an apocalypse (unveiling disclosure)

3. Literary Structure

- 40 times John says: “I saw”.
- 32 times John says: “I heard”.

4. Key to the book is the word “open”. Used 4 times. This book is an “unveiling” of what has been closed to us. Rev1:1-8: opening; Rev 22:6-21: ending/epilogue (John seeing Jesus)

5. Theological center is Revelation 12: Rev 12:11- we overcome through the blood of the Lord, the word of our testimony and that we don’t love our lives, but are willing to become martyrs.

Book: *Discipleship on the Edge*, by Darryl Johnson (pages 392-396)... “Revelation is a discipleship document given to us to enable us as Jesus’ disciples to keep the faith, to keep doing what he does under the crushing pressure to compromise.”

Revelation was written with two audiences in mind: Some who were beginning to face persecution and those who were beginning to assimilate to Roman culture. With this in mind we see that:

1. The fear of persecution leads to assimilation
2. Anti-assimilation invites persecution

2 Timothy 3:12 – *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.* If we are not being persecuted, perhaps we ought to ask “Why?” Is it because we are on the road to assimilation with our culture?

Revelation 18:1-5 is a key passage in Revelation – *Come out of her my people...*

CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF REVELATION

Darrell W. Johnson – *Discipleship On The Edge: An Expository Journey Through The Book of Revelation*

1:1-8

1:9 “I heard”

4:1 “open”

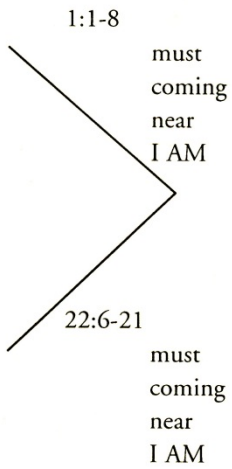
11:19 “open”

15:5 “open”

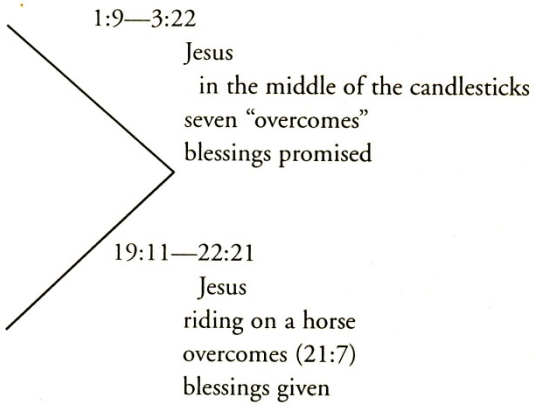
19:11 “open”

22:6-21

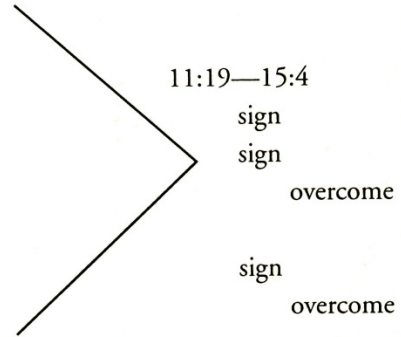
(A) Prologue and Epilogue.²



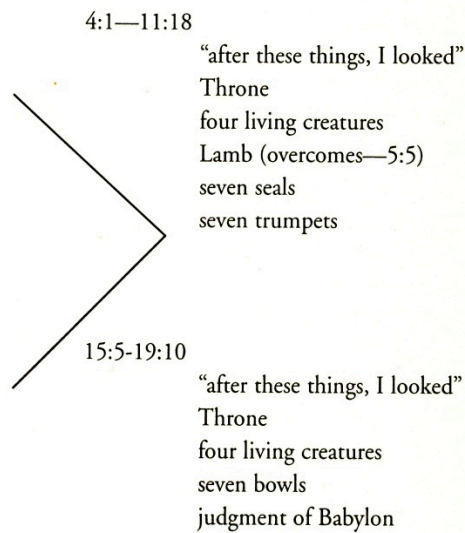
(B) 1:9—3:22 and 19:11—22:21.



(D) 11:19-15:4



(C) 4:1-11:18 and 15:5-19:10.



What is the whole chiasm “saying”?

Jesus “breaks through” to us, calling us to “overcome.” He defines the overcomer in the fourth letter, in the centre of the seven messages chiasm, as the one “who keeps my deeds until the end” (2:26). This is not easy given the nature of the pressure on us to compromise, pictured in the middle window as the dragon and his two beasts, and given the reality of tribulation (*thlipis*, crushing pressure) pictured in windows two and four in the seven seals, trumpets and bowls. There is only one way to “overcome”: the way Jesus did, as a Lamb, as pictured in Revelation 5. Thus 12:11, the central verse of the whole book – “they [disciples of Jesus] overcame him [the dragon] because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.”

The structure itself declares the message that since Jesus overcomes evil not by being a Lion who hurts others, but by being a Lamb who absorbs hurt, so too we overcome evil in the world, not by inflicting more hurt, but by absorbing the hurt, even if it costs us our lives. The structure itself declares the mystery that in losing our lives we actually win, “overcome,” just as Jesus did.

Revelation is a discipleship document given to us to enable us as Jesus’ disciples to keep the faith, to keep doing what he does under the crushing pressure to compromise.

O Lord Jesus, grant us the wisdom and strength to believe that your way is the only way to live, the only way to bring about shalom in the world. Grant us the wisdom and strength to follow you in your paradoxical way to victory. Amen.

Discipleship On The Edge, Darrell W. Johnson, pages 392-396.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISSUES RELATED TO PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 17</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Guilt, Shame and Fear-based Cultures</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Ask each person to write on a sticky-note their definition of a Guilt-Shame-Fear based culture. Place the three words on the board and ask them to place their sticky-note under each word.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read Muller: “Honor and Shame”</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content Dealing with shame, honor and fear cultures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overcoming evil with good is our only response for vengeance belongs to God. Victory is always obtained by faith keeping us from being defeated at the hands of the enemy. <p>Walk through Scriptures related to each: Guilt-based culture. Shame-based culture. Fear-based culture.</p> <p>Al Ghazali, the medieval Muslim theologian stated: <i>“Know that a lie is not wrong in itself, but only because of the evil conclusions to which it leads the hearer, making him believe something that is not really the case. Ignorance sometimes is an advantage, and if a lie causes this kind of ignorance it may be allowed. It is sometimes a duty to lie . . . if lying and truth both lead to a good result, you must tell the truth, for a lie is forbidden in this case. If a lie is the only way to reach a good result, it is allowable. A lie is lawful when it is the only path to duty . . . We must lie when truth leads to unpleasant results, but tell the truth when it leads to good results.”</i></p> <p>The rule for telling the truth, or not, is bound by honor and shame. If shame can be avoided, or honor obtained; then lying is more honorable, and therefore the thing to do.</p> <p>Debate: Is it ever right to tell a lie?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...identified the key principles from Muller’s text to identify Guilt-Shame-Fear based cultures.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Divide the class into three groups: Guilt – Shame – Fear Ask each group to prepare two questions (one +; one -) to ask the other two groups that will help someone understand their culture.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...reinforced their understanding of Guilt-Shame-Fear culture.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Draw a triangle (“hierarchy”) of “When is it right to tell a lie?”</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...affirmed the value of saving a life</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 17

Guilt, Shame and Fear-based Cultures

CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS (no culture is only one exclusively)

1. **Guilt/justice cultures:** the West, etc. "I'm guilty"
2. **Shame/honor cultures:** Islamic Middle East. "I have shamed my family" Violence isn't a problem if it will resolve shaming.
3. **Fear cultures:** Africa, Asia etc. - fear of retaliation from the spirit world.

Guilt, Shame and Fear are all consequences of Adam's sin. He became guilty before God; lost his relationship with God, fell under a curse, including losing his power over the spirit world.

"The gospel is not designed for just one culture, but for ALL cultures and all aspects of life/people. It is a gospel that frees us from guilt, shame and fear. 1 Peter 2:6

Satan's response:

Legalism:-

- To overcoming guilt (.....if I can be good enough)
- To overcoming shame: (...if I can be good enough to not shame)
- To overcoming fear: (...if I can just be courageous)

1 Peter 2:9 addresses all three types of cultures. You are a "chosen generation" (fear), "royal priesthood" (shame), a "holy nation" (guilt).

The Bible is filled with shame and honor:

- 190 references to honest (only 40 references to Guilt (7 in NT)
- 100+ mentions of shame and many principles:
- Leviticus 26:13 – God brought Israel out of Egypt to "walk with heads held high..."
- God raises mankind from a position of shame to being joint-heirs with Christ.
- 1 Peter 2:6 "...the one who trusts him will never be put to shame..."

The gospel message should be: God not only offers forgiveness of sins but He also offers freedom from fear and a lifting from shame.

Is it right to tell a lie to save a life?

There appears to be a Biblical inference that "saving a life" is a higher value than admitting information that would lead to the death of another person.

- SAVING A LIFE
- Deuteronomy 30:19 "*choose life*"
-
- TELLING THE TRUTH
- Joshua 2:5 "*I don't know where they went*" (Rahab)
-
- OBEYING AN AUTHORITY
- Exodus 1:17 – "*did not do what the King of Egypt told them to do...*"
- 1 Samuel 14:45 "*Never!*"

'Why are you not obeying the government'? We are under obligation to obey the government provided the law does not disobey Scripture. However if we understand the consequences of disobedience such as fines, imprisonment, beatings, death and willfully choose to disobey the law that is our option as a follower of Jesus Christ...that is considered 'civil disobedience.'

• **Rahab:** (Joshua 2:3) "...So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."

(Hebrews 11:31) "...By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace."

• **Midwives in Egypt:** (Exodus 1:15–19) "The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."

• **Jonathan's life spared by the disobedience of the soldiers to protect Life!:** (1 Samuel 14:43–45) "Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die. And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan. And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan that he died not."

Guilt and Shame in the Gospel: Foundations for Salvation and Christian Living

(Table adapted from *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross: The Atonement in Contemporary Contexts*

by Joel Green and Mark Baker. Downers Grove, IL: IVP. 2001)

by Cheong Weng Kit, PhD © Copyright 2009.

Sin as Guilt <i>(focus on the act)</i>	Sin as Shame <i>(focus on the self)</i>
<p><u>Doing the good:</u> Obey the law. If not, a lawless society exists.</p> <p><u>Nature of fault:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to meet self-obligations in relationship to the law • tends to be individualistic. The individual is at fault and need to make amends. (e.g. when the child is guilty of a wrong, he apologizes by himself directly to the person wronged) <p><u>Personal reaction (internally):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • condemnation/remorse • self-accusation • fear of punishment • anger • self-justification • hostility <p><u>Social reaction (externally):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blame and hold responsible • accuse and condemn • punish and retaliate <p><u>Remedy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • propitiation through restitution or penalty [pay for the wrong] • justification banishes guilt 	<p><u>Doing the good:</u> Follow honorable role models. If not, you live dishonorable lives.</p> <p><u>Nature of fault:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to meet self-obligations in relationship to people • tends to be relational. Individuals at fault must be represented by another to make amends. (e.g. when a child shames the family, the parent apologizes to the other parent on the child's behalf) <p><u>Personal reaction (internally):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embarrassment/disgrace • self-deprecation • fear of abandonment • resentment • self-isolation • alienation <p><u>Social reaction (externally):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ridicule and exclude • disgrace and hold in contempt • disapprove and reproach <p><u>Remedy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identification and communication [righting the alienation] • love covers shame

How does this apply to our salvation and affect our walk in Christ?

- 1) When would the most appropriate situations to share about sin as producing guilt vs shame? Why?
- 2) When we sometimes “feel” they we aren’t saved, what might be the problem? What might be a proper response?
- 3) So, is it appropriate to talk about our salvation as something we “feel” versus that of “knowing” the facts as stated in the Bible?
- 4) When Ephesians 2 says that Christ is our peace and has broken down every wall of division that separates us from God, what does this peace mean in your life?
- 5) What are some situations in life that causes shame in? In light of this study, what may be appropriate responses?
- 6) Some Christians think that once they have been *saved from* sin and forgiven and are now destined for heaven, that’s it (as there is nothing else to be *saved for*). How could an understanding of sin as guilt vs shame help in such a scenario?
- 7) Are there scenarios in our life where we might shame God?
- 8) What relationships do we have in our life that might happen?

Sin as Guilt	Sin as Shame
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Objective aspect of atonement – a fact-based knowledge of salvation 2) One sin = guilty in eyes of the law. One guilty act is enough to make us wrong/unlawful before the law. 3) Guilt as a debt to be paid 4) Actions – as wrong/unlawful 5) Seen in impersonal transactions/law 6) Picture of God as a Righteous Judge 7) <u>Bible passages and motif</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom, Gal, other Pauline epistles • Israel and the people punished for breaking God’s law, i.e. idolatry, 10 commandments. • Pain, suffering and exile in military defeat as judgment. 8) <u>Remedy</u>: pay for the wrong (Christ took our punishment and paid for our sins) 9) <u>The cross</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as Christ’s ultimate punishment. It is a painful and public condemnation. • focus on the pain and suffering. 10) <u>Christ’s act</u>: vicariously bearing our sins and taking our guilt and debt 11) Guilt and debt is assuaged by a substitute taking on our payment 12) The person’s sin and guilt is pardoned or debt is forgiven. Christ has atoned for our guilt/debt. 13) Sin is dealt with as a debt that is "paid" or "forgiven" 14) Christ’s pardon frees us from guilt and condemnation (Rom 8:1) 15) Removal of guilt/debt. Justification, brings us to place of holiness 16) <u>Cultures</u>: modern and urbanized societies (e.g. United States, Europe, Australia, NZ) 17) <u>Goal</u>: a law-abiding or orderly society 18) <u>Criticism of law model</u>: no shame felt even though one’s actions are “legal” 19) <u>Shortcomings of the model</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor focus on relationship • does not compel to do good but simply to avoid the punishment. Restitution is law-driven not relationship-based. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Subjective aspect of atonement – an emotional experience of salvation 2) One sin = shameful before people. It takes many shameful acts for alienation to occur in a relationship. 3) Shame as a stigma to be covered 4) Actions – as shameful/dishonoring 5) Seen in personal relationships 6) Picture of God as a Loving Father 7) <u>Bible passages and motif</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gen 3, Lev 17:11; Hosea, Luke 15, 1 Pet, 1 John • Israel and the people punished for defiling or breaking relationship with God. • Shame and dishonor in loss of land, pillaging and ability to worship. 8) <u>Remedy</u>: identify with the shamed (Christ identified in our shame by being shamed) 9) <u>The cross</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as Christ’s ultimate shame. It is a shameful, humiliating experience. He despised it. (Heb 12:2, 1 Pet 2:6) • focus on the shame and nakedness 10) <u>Christ’s act</u>: identifying and taking part in our shame 11) Shame is banished through loving identification, covering our shame 12) The person’s sin & shame is excused, forgotten (Jer 31:34; Isa 54:4) or covered by God (Lev 17:11 – <i>kapar</i> = cover; Isa 6 – see NICOT; 1 Pet 4:8, Jas 5:20; 1 Jn 4; Psa 103:12). 13) Sin is dealt with as a debt that is "covered" (Isa 6. Oswalt in NICOT) 14) Christ’s love makes us unashamed (Rom 5:5; 9:33; 10:11) 15) Covering of shame/alienation. Honor, reconciles, brings us to place of honor (2 Cor 5:18-19, Rom 5:10) 16) <u>Cultures</u>: traditional or family-oriented societies (e.g. Spain, Italy, Greece, Japan, China, Asia, Islamic societies) 17) <u>Goal</u>: honor-based and harmonious relationships in society 18) <u>Criticism of shame model</u>: it is a rule of people, thus a “lawless” society. 19) <u>Shortcomings of the model</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sin is covered but not removed • objective aspect of salvation is underemphasized. May lead to lack of assurance of salvation.

Guilt and shame are not opposing models but rather complementary pictures of salvation in the Bible. They can be unified under the picture of God as Holy King:

GOD as HOLY KING in a Kingdom of peace and justice	
Guilt	Shame
* the king is a law-giver who also judges his people * the king administers the law but yet shows mercy	* the king is a husband who is devoted and who loves his people * the king loves his people but yet is concerned for the law
* holiness as living a law-abiding life in personal conduct	* holiness as living an unshamed life before God and others
* peace (shalom) as law-abiding society	* peace (shalom) as harmonious relationships
* justice (mispat) as punishing the guilty	* justice (mispat) as doing or restoring what is right in a wronged relationship/restitution
* idolatry as breaking God's law to worship other gods	* idolatry as spiritual adultery, dishonoring and defiling God
* God's covenant with Israel is seen in a contract and law framework. A broken covenant is a breaking of the law. * solution to covenant breaking: new law put in heart to make people righteous * Jer 31:33 –...put law in their minds & hearts	* God's covenant with Israel is seen in a relationship framework. A broken covenant is a breaking of a relationship (Jer 31:32). * solution to covenant breaking: new relationship & reconciliation to restore honor * Jer 31:33 – I will be their God...

Mission & Evangelism - An example of sharing the gospel from a shame perspective:

- In the beginning, we enjoyed a perfect relationship with our heavenly Father.
- But because of our foolishness and selfishness, we disobeyed him by going against his words and authority by listening to another and committing a forbidden act.
- When our heavenly Father found out, he asked about what we had done.
- But because of what we did, we were afraid to tell him as we were ashamed of what we had done. So, we hid from him, afraid to show our face or to see his.
- But God knew and punished us by sending us away from his presence.
- Ever since then, our forebears and ancestors have experienced shame for they were all alienated from our heavenly Father's presence. There was no one to cover our shame and bring us back to a right relationship with God again.
- But our heavenly Father never forgot us even though we were alienated before him. He desired to have fellowship with us again in a right relationship.
- One day, the Father sent his most beloved Son to repair this brokenness in our relationship with him.
- He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, his representative so filial in every way, that he showed us perfectly the heart of his Father.
- He came and approached us in our shame and who didn't know how to approach our Father.
- He identified with our shame by taking on a shameful act dying on the cross for us. By doing this, his shame covered all of our shames.
- But by identifying with us, covering our shame and forgetting our sins, we no longer need be ashamed to approach our heavenly Father. We can now boldly come into his presence.
- Jesus Christ has reconciled us to our heavenly Father. We now can have fellowship and a right relationship with God again.
- Restored into the family & fellowship of God, we are now seated in heavenly places, a place of honor with God. We now can come boldly into his presence to seek him everyday.

How the Bible uses guilt & shame to teach us about right living as God's people

How do the Biblical writers exhort their listeners and readers to holy living? By a combination of appeal to the law and to honor, to the divine standard and to peer relationships.

- In the Old Testament, the appeal is to God's commandments as found in the Torah but also to the kings and their patriarchs (e.g. Judg 2:17) For example,
 - In the book of the Kings & Chronicles, we see the appeal to God's laws & the kings who led honorable or dishonorable lives (e.g. 1 King 16:26, 31; 22:43, 52; 2 Kings 8:18-19, 27; 13:6; 16:3; 21:21-22; 22:1; 29:18; 2 Chron 17:3-4; 20:32; 21:12-13; 22:3; 28:2; 34:1)
 - In the Pentateuch (e.g. Ex 3:16), especially, we see the appeal to God's spoken word to be obeyed as well as the example of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) when exhorting Israel.
 - In the prophetic books, we see the appeal to God's laws and the previous generations of Israelites who obeyed or disobeyed God's laws (e.g. Ezk 16:60-63; 20:43; 23:27; 36:30-32; Hos 9:9; Mal 4:4).
 - In Hosea, God uses the shame of Hosea's wife to illustrate His covering and faithful love.
- In the New Testament,
 - When Christ used examples such as the widow's mite (Mk 12:42-43; Lk 21:2-3), he was appealing to the Jewish sense of legal obligation to tithe to God but also to shame them in the act of the widow. The widow was an example of the law fleshed out as their peer.
 - When Jesus teaches about what is right, he speaks to their sense of shame and honor by referring to their ancestors (e.g. Mk.12:26)
 - Concerning the visit of the friend at midnight in Lk 11, his visit and petition succeeds because of his shamelessness, not because of his persistence (Note: its interpretation hinges on the word *ajnaivdeian*, which can best be translated as "shamelessness", not "persistence" as in most translations (see New Living Translation, Darrell Bock, *NIV Commentary on Luke* and Bailey, *Poet and Peasant*).
 - The Good Samaritan is an example of shame being shown in the Pharisee who refused to help the injured while honor is to be emulated in the Samaritan.
 - In Luke 15, we can see it as the parable of the waiting father, instead of the prodigal son. The father experienced deep loss of face and shame in his son who left but still chose to wait for him to return to embrace and cover the son's own shame and dishonor at the father's own cost (Hwa Yung, p.133 in *Jesus and the Cross* by David Emmanuel Singh)
 - The prayers of the tax collector and the Pharisee in Lk 18 is another example of both doing what was right before the law but in addition, the tax collector's example (a person of dishonor) is used to shame the person of honor (the Pharisee).
 - When Stephen give his impassioned speech about God before his persecutors, he reminds the Jews of their ancestors as well (e.g. Acts 3:13; 7:32)
 - when Paul writes, he appeals both to the law and ethics but also to points to himself and to Christ as persons to emulate in living the Christian life (e.g. 1 Cor 4:14-16; 11:1-2, 24-25; Phil 1:30; 3:17).
 - the rhetoric of 1 Cor 12 on the parts of the body employs shame and honor.
 - when instructing Timothy in 2 Tim 2:15-22 and 2 Tim 3:10 on vessels of honor the similar discourse of shame/honor also. Paul's teaching on the body uses a similar rhetoric, using shame to teach the Corinthians (see especially 1 Corinthians 12:23).
 - See also James 2:1-7 for shame, Jas 2:8-13 for guilt. Tit 2:5,8; Heb 2:11-12 for shame dynamics in the rhetoric.
- The interesting thing is that in Christ, both appeals are centered in him. He is both the divine standard (the Word of God) but also the one in whom we are to emulate relationally. He was perfect in his obedience to the law but he was also perfect as the Son who was filial to the Father. Thus Christ not only showed us how to obey the law (objective standard of living) but he also showed us how to be like

him (subjective aspect of living). Righteous Christian living in its totality thus should include obedience to the law (e.g. God’s commands, societal laws, etc.) as well as an emulation of Christian role models (e.g. Christ, missionaries, etc.)

How can we disciple new believers or teach our children to grow in God’s righteousness

- Focus on the law: teach them the law says about what is right and wrong.
 - from the God’s word, the commandments and teachings of the Bible
 - from the laws we have in our society and what society expects us to follow as law-abiding citizens.
- Focus on shame: teach them about the meaning of honor in living uprightly.
 - teach them what each Biblical character exemplifies of as a model (e.g. from the lives of those who lived faithfully or unfaithfully before God)
 - teach them who are Godly people in the community (e.g. church, neighbor, etc.) who walk faithfully as a Christian and what character traits they exemplify.

Ministry implications in counseling

Sin as Guilt	Sin as shame
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual is to own up to personal wrong • try to live a law-abiding life • holiness as a focus on obeying God’s commandments or precepts by own self • continued need to reinforce individual’s innocence within self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individual seeks to recover honor through help of others • living a honorable life with respect to community role models • holiness as a focus on living unashamed life before God and believers • freedom from self-doubt but past shame can never be wiped out

Social and cultural implications in daily life

The guilt/law versus shame/honor models represent both the objective and subjective aspects of salvation that involves a change in social and relational status between the individual, society and God. There are other examples of objective and subjective change aspects in the social domain of everyday life as well as seen below: (**indicates Biblical examples*)

Cultural example	Objective and legal aspects of (one-time) change	Subjective and relational aspects of (continuous) change
Adoption*	Signature of legal papers	Process of getting to know parents
Marriage*	Declaration of husband and wife	Loving and living as a couple
Emancipation*	Declaration of freed status	Change in mentality and practice
Graduation (?)	Ceremonial marking of graduation	Adjusting to workplace
Legal adulthood	Arrival of the birthday	Coping with adulthood

Additional aspects to explore for future:

- Other aspects of shame in life: nakedness, adultery, illegitimate child, dishonoring parents, disfiguring body/personality (see Allan Coppedge, *Portraits of God*)
- Aspects of atonement in the OT: in Lev 17:11 – the Hebrew word *kapar* is usually translated as “atone” but literally means “cover” or “hide”. Thus, the blood of the sacrificial lamb is to provide a covering for sin.
- Aspects of reconciliation in Scripture: Rom 5:10, 11; 11:15; 1 Cor 7:11; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Eph 2:16; Col 1:20,22, 2 Corinthians 6:17

- Aspects of relationships in Scripture:
 - God and man, Man and creation/powers, Man and man (master/slave, male/female, Jew/Gentile, rich/poor, etc.) What kind of shame/honor are found here?
 - (In Jn 10, *kalos* can be translated either as “good” or “beautiful”. The former tends to be seen as an objective good but the latter as a subjective/aesthetic good. Jesus as the Good Shepherd is both good to us in the righteous sense – he does what is good (in terms of obeying the Father and doing His work towards sinful mankind) but also what is beautiful (that we are able to taste God’s goodness and see God’s beauty in all that He does).

Western context	Perspectives on the Gospel	Eastern context
As breaking God’s laws and commandments	Sin	As breaking a relationship with God
To live righteous and holy life in Christ	Holy Spirit’s power	To live in perfect harmony and relationship in Christ
Meeting God’s laws perfectly. Walking justly before the law.	Defining the abundant life	Being in God’s full presence. Having loving relationships.
By breaking God’s law, humans become unholy	Sin as separation from God	By breaking a relationship, humans become unfaithful
As a model of obedience in fulfilling God’s laws	Jesus Christ’s obedience	As a model of obedience in perfect relationship with God
In perfect obedience to God’s laws.	Jesus – the perfect human	In perfect obedience and relationship with the Father
The punishment of our pain, scourging, and chastisement of our sins from God’s laws.	Jesus took the punishment and its consequences	The punishment of our shame, humiliation and alienation from God the Father.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ISSUES RELATED TO PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Martyrdom, Suffering and Historical Persecution</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect Have everyone stand and line up (quickly) from Oldest to Youngest. Then form groups of 3 (oldest down to 3 youngest) ...stay standing: Come up with a definition of “<i>Martyrdom</i>” – <i>What is Martyrdom?</i> Ask the extreme ages to answer: Oldest say ‘x’ – Youngest say ‘y’ [Compare] Option: Watch video clips from “Of Gods and Men” DVD. 2010.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read S&B Chapter 4,5,23,30,32; Penner Chapter 2 and Ton Chapter 5 plus Pdf Westpetal ...defined ‘Martyrdom’.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content Note: review chapter from Blood and Sorrow on ‘Martyrdom’</p> <p>Christian martyrs are defined as “believers in Christ who have lost their lives prematurely, in situations of witness, as a result of human hostility.” This definition has five essential elements that can be stated as follows: (see next page)</p> <p>Review how the 11 Disciples died as Martyrs.</p> <p>see PDF with story of how each Disciple died</p> <p>see reference on Persecution in History</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...understood the need for each disciple/follower of Jesus Christ to be ready to live – or die – for Him.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation In 3 minutes write a 60-second answer to “Why does God allow Suffering and Persecution?” – read your answer to your group of three.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...written a 60-second response to “<i>Why does God allow Suffering and Persecution?</i>”</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – Take Away</p> <p>Why was the Apostle Paul’s primary prayer request for “Boldness”? “<i>and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel...</i>” – (Ephesians 6:19 NASV). “...according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death” – (Philippians 1:20). “...but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition” – (1 Thessalonians 2:2)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...prayed for boldness to speak the gospel of God amid much opposition.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 18

Martyrdom, Suffering and Historical Persecution

Restrictions on Christians and the Church are believed to be coming within a few years.

Understanding Martyrdom, Suffering and Persecution.

33AD: 12 disciples reached a world of 225 million people.

2012AD: Today, that would require a world of 373 disciples to reach a world of 7 billion people.

What would they need?

Believe that Jesus is alive and surrender their lives—even to death.

Definition: Martyrdom/martyr [*Sorrow & Blood* p.29]

Christian martyrs are defined as “believers in Christ who have lost their lives prematurely, in situations of witness, as a result of human hostility.” This definition has five essential elements that can be stated as follows:

1. *Believers in Christ:* These individuals come from the entire Christian community of Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants, Anglicans, marginal Christians, and independents. In AD 2010, over 2.2 billion individuals can be deemed Christians, and since the time of Christ over 8.5 billion have believed in Christ.
 2. *Lost their lives:* The definition is restricted to Christians actually put to death, for whatever reason.
 3. *Prematurely:* Martyrdom is sudden, abrupt, unexpected, unwanted.
 4. *In situations of witness:* “Witness” in this definition does not mean only public testimony or proclamation concerning the Risen Christ. It refers to the entire lifestyle and way of life of the Christian believer, whether or not he or she is actively proclaiming at the time of being killed.
 5. *As a result of human hostility:* This excludes deaths through accidents, crashes, earthquakes and other “acts of God,” illnesses, or other causes of death, however tragic.
- It is someone who is murdered because of what they believe by someone who is opposed by someone who has another belief.
 - Believers in Christ (comes from the Christian community), lost their lives (put to death for whatever reason), prematurely (sudden, abrupt, unexpected and unwanted), in situation of witness (depicts a lifestyle), as a result of human hostility. Hebrews 11:36-40
 - Paul’s imprisonment (why were they there and how did it benefit the church?): Acts 21:28-29 Paul accused of defiling the temple by bringing in Greek people....they supposed/assumed that they had come into the temple. Philippians 1:20-21-there are so many opportunities to give out the Gospel while IN prison.
 - Ton (page 24): the fear of death is the tool that the devil uses to keep believers under his control. However, if you don’t have a fear of death, then you can live for Christ.

History of the Persecutions (see <http://www.religionfacts.com/persecution-of-early-church>)

- At least since the fifth century, it has been customary to count ten major persecutions in the early church, a number that nicely parallels the ten plagues of Egypt. {12} These ten persecutions are:
- - Persecution under Nero (c. 64-68). Traditional martyrdoms of Peter and Paul.
- - Persecution under Domitian (r. 81-96).
- - Persecution under Trajan (112-117). Christianity is outlawed but Christians are not sought out.
- - Persecution under Marcus Aurelius (r. 161-180). Martyrdom of Polycarp.
- - Persecution under Septimus Severus (202-210). Martyrdom of Perpetua.
- - Persecution under Decius (250-251). Christians are actively sought out by requiring public sacrifice. Could buy certificates (libelli) instead of sacrificing. Martyrdoms of bishops of Rome, Jerusalem and Antioch.
- - Persecution under Valerian (257-59). Martyrdoms of Cyprian of Carthage and Sixtus II of Rome.
- - Persecution under Maximinus the Thracian (235-38).
- - Persecution under Aurelian (r. 270–275).
- - Severe persecution under Diocletian and Galerius (303-324).



DAY 4

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Day 4 is an opportunity for participants to share their learning with the group. As mentioned earlier there needs to be some form of “In-Class Assignments” – material that is submitted – and graded – during the actual five days of classes. This might include: an Annotated Bibliography of 10 articles on the topic; daily Summaries submitted on assigned readings; a Class Group Project (presented on final day); an individual 10 minute “YouTube” video (or a Power Point teaching lesson) prepared and presented on an assigned topic, or an assigned topic for teaching a 15 minute Module -- and/or a Final Exam.

The following objectives are presented in such a manner that if the Learner’s (or Leader) are teaching assigned topics they will understand the Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives: A key phrase in writing Learning Objectives is: “By the end of this Lesson the participants *will have*... “Learning Objectives written in the Past tense show what the Learner *will know, do, or be* at the end of the time together.

Learners will have... *written...read...prepared...practiced...developed...designed...identified...etc.*
...Participated in preparing and presenting a 15-minute “mini-lesson” on their pre-approved term paper topic.

NOTE: *IF more than 10 presenters perhaps do some in evening/lunch time/or reduce presentation time to fit in each participant.*

At the end of each mini-lesson take 8-10 minutes – have the person sit at the front, facing the class and then ask the following four *non-threatening* questions:

To the Learner:

1. What did you most enjoy about the lesson you just taught?
2. What changes would you make if you had to do the same topic again tomorrow to the same group?

To the ‘Class’ Members (fellow learners)

3. What did you most enjoy about the lesson you just experienced?
4. What changes would you make if you had to do the same topic again tomorrow to the same group?

Lesson 19 – Presentations

Max 15 minutes for Presentation + 8-10 minutes for above four questions.

Lesson 20 – Presentations

Max 15 minutes for Presentation + 8-10 minutes for above four questions.

Lesson 21 – Presentations

Max 15 minutes for Presentation + 8-10 minutes for above four questions.

Lesson 22 – Presentations -

Max 15 minutes for Presentation + 8-10 minutes for above four questions.

Lesson 23 – Forgiveness and Grace

...read SSTS – Chapter 12; Pdf - Howell

...written a definition of Forgiveness that is theologically sound.

...examined and studied the Forgiveness Chart.

...written a note to someone they have forgiven thanking them for how they have affected their life.

Lesson 24 – Perseverance and Encouragement

...read SSTS Chapter 11 and Pdf Adiwardana “Biblical Teaching on Perseverance”

...identified ways David encouraged himself at Ziklag.

...discovered ways to encourage one another.

...written a note of encouragement to someone experiencing a time of personal suffering.

How much do we retain 24 hours after a Learning experience?



5%
of lecture



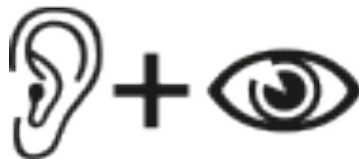
10%
of what
we read



20%
of what
we hear



30% of what
we see



50% of what
we see and hear



70% of what we
discuss with others



80% of what we
experience personally



95% of what we
teach someone else



<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 4 THE WAY OF THE CROSS Lesson 23 <i>Forgiveness and Grace</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>In pairs describe a time you had to forgive someone / or someone had to forgive you. Tell what happened as a result of the forgiveness.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...<i>read</i> SSTS – Chapter 12; Pdf - Howell</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Review the handout Chart – and tell a story of Forgiveness and Grace from Ambon Indonesia in S&B – page CHAPTER 47 - PREPARING THE LOCAL CHURCH AND OUR MISSIONARIES by <i>Paul Estabrooks</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...<i>examined</i> and studied the Forgiveness Chart.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>As a group: Compile a definition of Forgiveness</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...<i>written</i> a definition of Forgiveness that is theologically sound.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Write a note to one person who you have forgiven, thanking them for how they have affected your life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...<i>written</i> a note to someone they have forgiven thanking them for how they have affected their life.</p>
<p>Materials Paper, pens, envelopes</p>	

¹ Taken from a study conducted by the National Laboratories of Bethel Maine in the 1960s and reported by Sousa (2006), p. 95

Reference Notes for Lesson 23

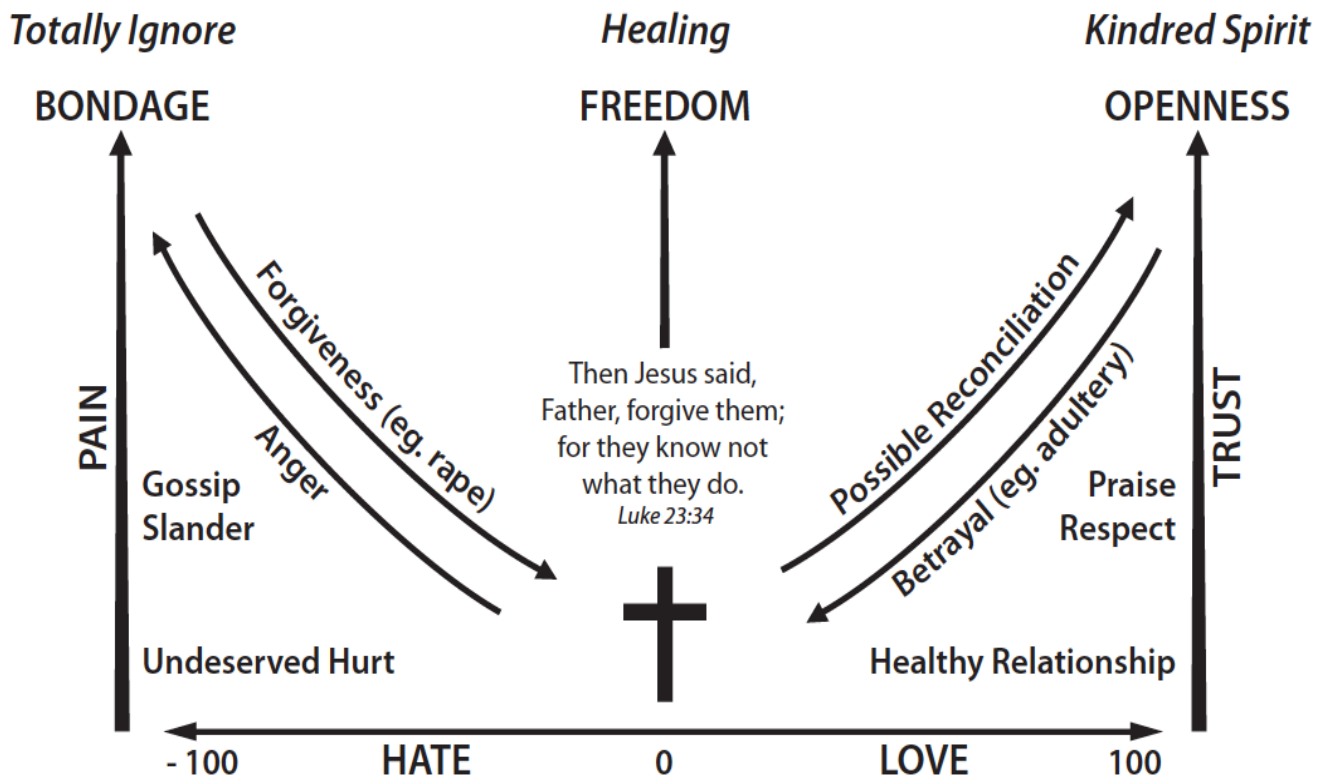
Forgiveness and Grace

What are the Primary Characteristics that distinguish Christianity and make it unlike any religion on Earth?

1. God is a Father
2. Humanity of God....becoming flesh....God incarnate (resurrection)
3. Dying for sinners
4. He is ALIVE –Jesus rising from the dead.
5. Salvation not through works
6. Righteousness is a free gift
7. Substitutionary atonement
8. Love & compassion
9. Grace
10. Salvation by Faith
11. Forgiveness- key with Muslims
12. Love your enemies
13. Women honored
14. Liberty vs legalism worship & praise, music with joy

Watch Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czGP0kIisdl>

Handout: The Power of Forgiveness: From Bondage to Freedom (diagram).



Definition:

Forgiveness is the conscious choice to remove the barriers of the offence thereby restoring the potential for relationship. Luke 23:34 God is the God of Grace.

FORGIVENESS IS...

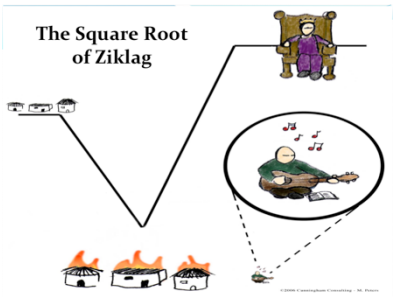
- **Removing** the barriers of the ill feeling.
- **Letting go** of the hurt, resentment, anger and hate caused by someone.
- **Letting go** of one aspect of the relationship to salvage another.
- **Letting go** of the offence caused by the other person.
- **Choosing** not to be hurt by another's actions.
- **Choosing** to give the benefit of the doubt for his/her actions.
- **Committing** the wrong done to us in Christ and free ourselves from it.
- **'Resetting'** the relationship.
- **'Wiping'** out the words spoken like erasing words on the white board.
- **Erasing** the offence and rebuilding relationships.
- **Refusing** to take revenge or get angry at those who harm us in any way.
- **Refusing** to hold the person responsible for the offence that has been committed.
- **Forgetting** the pain and feeling good about the person who has harmed us.
- **Overcoming** the pain inflicted on me and not holding the inflictor responsible any more.
- **Disregarding** the hurt/insult inflicted by someone and able to move on without feelings.
- **Finding** emotional release from resentment incurred as a result of deep hurt.
- **Restoring** relationships as before.

© from TOPAD class at MBS – Malaysia – 28 Aug 2013.

GRACE IS...

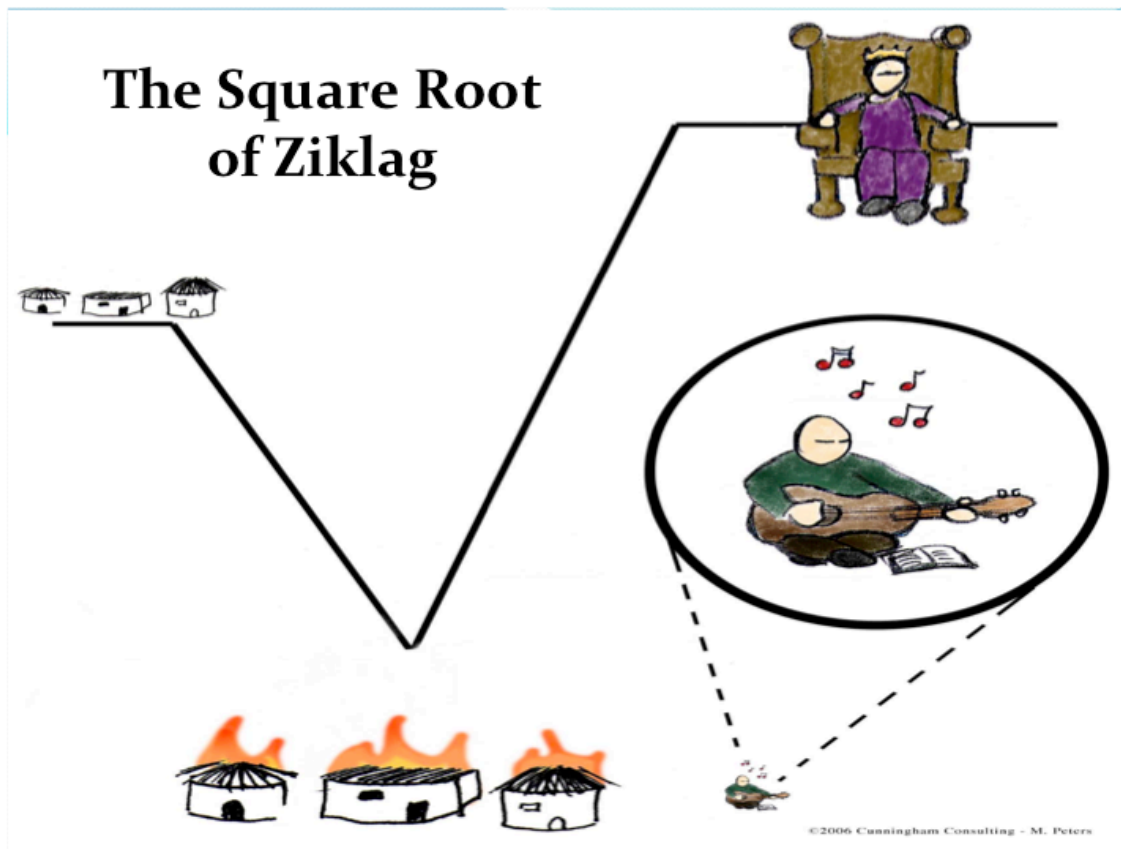
- **Giving** something to someone who needs it, but does not deserve it...for free!
- **God's Unmerited Favor**, which we don't expect to receive.
- **Power** to overcome and do good.
- **Helping** someone who does not deserve the help.
- **Receiving** what we do not deserve.
- **Not giving up** in the belief of a person's capacity to be/do good...and hold on regardless.
- **Forgiving** the offence and the offender.
- **God's given blessing.**
- **"once I was blind, but now I can see..."** ☺
- **Undeserving love...**given a second chance.
- **Undeserved** but given.
- **Receiving undeserving favor.**
- **Undeserving merit** given because of Christ's love.
- **Forgiving** without conviction.
- **Favor, Free, Precious Love.**
- **Given** when logically undeserved
- **Realizing** that we need to forgive because God forgave us and enables us to forgive others.
- **Granting favor** to someone who does not deserve it.
- **Loving or Helping** someone without expecting anything in return.
- **God's Gift** to forgive and be forgiven.
- **Extending** undeserved pardon
- **Release** and healing

© from TOPAD class at MBS – Malaysia – 28 Aug 2013.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 4 THE WAY OF THE CROSS Lesson 24 <i>Perseverance and Encouragement</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Tell the story of the “Square Root of Ziklag” (see next page). Compare to Joseph, Daniel, Jesus etc.</p>	<p>(10 minutes) ...read SSTS Chapter 11 and Pdf Adiwardana “Biblical Teaching on Perseverance”</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p>  <p>Based on readings for class...list the possible things David might have done to “encourage himself in the Lord” at Ziklag.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing, Write, Play instrument, Silence, Weep, Cry out to God, etc... 	<p>(30 minutes)</p> <p>...identified ways David encouraged himself at Ziklag.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>How can we “encourage one another”? Discuss in pairs.</p>	<p>(10 minutes)</p> <p>...discovered ways to encourage one another.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Write a 25 word note of encouragement to someone experiencing a time of personal suffering.</p>	<p>(5 minutes)</p> <p>...written a note of encouragement to someone experiencing a time of personal suffering.</p>
<p>Materials Paper, pens, envelopes.</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 24
Perseverance and Encouragement

Square Root of Ziklag (see SSTS Teacher's Guide pp.237-239)



When persecution comes, there are things that you need to do by yourself - 1 Samuel 27:1- 30:10

- David flees King Saul and hides in the city/hometown of Goliath (Gath).
- The King gave him Ziklag for a home including his 600 men with their families.
- In David's absence, Ziklag was burned and all families were taken away as captives.
- David's men were so angry, they wanted to kill him.
- "David encouraged himself in the Lord" v6.....how?? Sang songs, music, remember past victories, cried, pray, meditate...rejoiced in the hope of the Lord (possibly wrote a psalm). 2 Samuel 1-2:7.
- No matter how difficult things are, God is still in control. David has gone through absolute despair & defeat to victory (examples: Jesus, Daniel, Moses).
- However, you may be stuck in a prison and be all by yourself, or be in an earthquake and you are all on your own (seeing that everything had gone wrong). Learn how to "encourage yourself!"
- God will use different ways to do this, but we will all be there at some point in our lives. Perseverance is learning how to carry on in the Lord on your own. This is the encouragement that the Persecuted Church models for us!

DAY 5

CONTEMPORARY APPLICATIONS OF SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION

Learning Objectives: A key phrase in writing Learning Objectives is: “By the end of this Lesson the participants *will have...*” “Learning Objectives written in the Past tense show what the Learner *will know, do, or be* at the end of the time together.

Learners will have... *written...read...prepared...practiced...developed...designed...identified...etc.*

Lesson 25 – Trauma Healing/Counseling

...read S&B Chapters 61 & 62 plus Pdf Hill “Healing the Wounds of Trauma”
...examined the Past-Present-Future questions related to Trauma Healing
...compared physical wounds to heart wounds.
...reviewed lessons on Forgiveness and...
...taken our pain to the cross.

Lesson 26 – Theological Life Principles/Lessons from the Persecuted Church

...read S&B – Chapter 57
...read FTE related chapters 12-13-14.
...identified a minimum of three lessons we can learn from the Persecuted Church ...and apply today...here...now!
...written a strategy for implementing 3 lessons learned.
...planned a specific action step to apply a principle learned.
...recalled items learned from persecuted church.
...reviewed victorious life principles from the Persecuted Church.
...reflected on the needs of their church to prepare for/respond to persecution.

Lesson 27 – Contemporary Global Issues

...read FTE Chapters 6,7,8
...reviewed at least three (3) crucial areas of current persecution for prayer and further action
...considered the raw emotion and personal pain that accompanies real persecution issues.
...prayed for specific countries and people.

Lesson 28 – Non-Violence: Application of Biblical Principles

...read Pdf Klein
...identified biblical principles related to non-violence.
...reviewed principles on non-violence.
...thought critically about the impact of Stassen’s ‘Transforming Initiatives’.
...agreed to watch DVD of Bethlehem on their own time.

Lesson 29 – The Church: Essence, Function and Forms

...read SSTS pp.307-315
...identified the meaning of Essence Function Form.
...identified the Essence, Function and Forms of a Church.
...prayed for the Persecuted Church.
...identified in prayer with the Persecuted Church.

Lesson 30 – Crowns and Eternal Rewards

...read Ton Chapter 16
...debated the topic of Crowns and Rewards.
...reviewed the meaning of Crowns and Rewards.
...considered ways to help Christ “Finish the job...”
...written an action plan to finish well.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 5 <i>Contemporary Applications Of Suffering And Persecution</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 25 <i>Trauma Healing/Counseling</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...”</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>This session is adapted from the text: “Healing the Wounds of Trauma: <i>How the Church Can Help.</i>” by Margaret Hill et al © 2009. [Leader’s: <i>If it is possible to read this text ahead of the session it will provide helpful insights for assisting the class - PDF available</i>] <i>Show DVD of Trauma Healing</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(20 minutes)</p> <p>...read S&B Chapters 61 & 62 plus Pdf Hill “Healing the Wounds of Trauma”</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content <i>Healing The Wounds We Do Not Deserve</i> Finding Biblical Principles to answer Tough Questions: Past</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happened to me? - <i>Accepting our Wounds</i> • Why did this happen to me? - <i>Understanding the Cause</i> • Where was God when this happened? - <i>Awareness of the Reason</i> <p>Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will I ever be normal Again? - <i>Determining our Response</i> • How can I live with this scar? - <i>Consequences of the Realities</i> <p>Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any hope? - <i>Choosing our Options</i> • Can I ever forgive? - <i>Initiating our Healing</i> <i>Forgiveness is a command—not an option—for followers of Jesus’ example. Choosing forgiveness has eternal consequences. Showing grace extends favor or kindness to one who neither deserves it nor can earn it.</i> • How do I rebuild my life? - <i>Restoring our Sanity</i> • How we can help the persecuted – advocacy • Concluding thoughts with discussion 	<p style="text-align: center;">(20 minutes)</p> <p>...examined the Past-Present-Future questions related to Trauma Healing.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Examine the comparison between Physical Wounds and Heart Wounds. Place chart of the wall if possible</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...compared physical wounds to heart wounds.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Review chart of Forgiveness from Lesson 21 – Pray for one another to be able to forgive. IF extended time...do lesson 8 from HWT on “Taking our Pain to the Cross.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...reviewed lesson on Forgiveness – and ...taken our pain to the cross.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 25 ***Trauma Healing/Counseling***

Lesson 1: If God Loves Us, Why Do We Suffer?

Lesson 2: How Can the Wounds of Our Hearts Be Healed?

Lesson 3: What Happens When Someone Is Grieving?

Lesson 4: How Can We Help Children Who Have Experienced Bad Things?

Lesson 5: How Can We Help Women Who Have Been Raped?

Lesson 6: How Can a Church Minister in the Midst of HIV-AIDS?

Lesson 7: Caring for the Caregiver

Lesson 8: Response: Taking Your Pain to the Cross

Lesson 9: How Can We Forgive Others?

Lesson 10: How Can We Live as Christians in the Midst of Conflict?

Lesson 11: Looking Ahead

Past

- What happened to me? - *Accepting our Wounds*
- Why did this happen to me? - *Understanding the Cause*
- Where was God when this happened? - *Awareness of the Reason*

Present

- Will I ever be normal Again? - *Determining our Response*
- How can I live with this scar? - *Consequences of the Realities*

Future

- Is there any hope? - *Choosing our Options*
- Can I ever forgive? - *Initiating our Healing*

Forgiveness is a command—not an option—for followers of Jesus' example. Choosing forgiveness has eternal consequences. Showing grace extends favor or kindness to one who neither deserves it nor can earn it.

- How do I rebuild my life? - *Restoring our Sanity*

What are the Primary Characteristics that distinguish Christianity and make it unlike any religion on Earth?

- Love & Compassion
- Grace
- Salvation by Faith
- Forgiveness
- Love your Enemies
- Women Honored – “neither male nor female”
- Liberty vs Legalism
- Worship & Praise – Music with Joy
- Truth – Jesus is “the truth”

Physical Wound	Heart Wound
It is visible.	It is invisible, but shows up in the person's behaviour.
It is painful, and must be treated with care.	It is painful, and must be treated with care.
If ignored, it is likely to get worse.	If ignored, it is likely to get worse.
It must be cleaned to remove any foreign objects or dirt.	The pain has to come out, and any sin must be confessed.
If the wound heals on the surface with infection still inside, it will cause the person to become very sick.	If people pretend their emotional wounds are healed when really they are not, it will cause the person greater problems.
Only God can bring healing, but he often uses people and medicine to do so.	Only God can bring healing, but he often uses people and an understanding of how our emotions heal to do so.
If not treated, it attracts flies.	If not treated, it attracts sin.
It takes time to heal.	It takes time to heal.
A healed wound leaves a scar.	A healed heart wound also leaves a scar. People can be healed, but they will not be exactly the same as before the wound.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 5 <i>Contemporary Applications Of Suffering And Persecution</i> Lesson 26 <i>Theological Lessons/Principles from the Persecuted Church</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Place this phrase on board: <i>“A Cross-bearing message requires a Cross-bearing messenger!”</i> In pairs discuss meaning – and implications Summarize thoughts.</p>	<p>(10 minutes) ...read S&B Chapter 57 plus FTE related chapters 12-13-14.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Discussion of Boyd’s text (see reference notes attached) 1. Faith Boost – Am I walking the ‘Way of the Cross’? 2. Faith Warning – Am I in enough trouble for Jesus? 3. Faith Model – Is my God big enough?</p>	<p>(30 minutes)</p> <p>...identified a minimum of three lessons we can learn from the Persecuted Church ...and apply today...here...now!</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>In pairs -- from the list of “three lessons we can learn from the Persecuted Church” (above) discuss how you will implement these 3 lessons.</p>	<p>(10 minutes)</p> <p>...written a strategy for implementing 3 lessons learned.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>In Journal or Notebook... <i>“This week I will apply the principle of ___ by ___/[write in 25 words...]</i></p>	<p>(5 minutes)</p> <p>...planned a specific action step to apply a principle learned.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 26
Theological Lessons/Principles from the Persecuted Church

“A Cross-bearing message requires a Cross-bearing messenger!”

What can we learn from the Persecuted?

1. Faith Boost: Is my God big enough?

- When you read stories of the persecuted church, you hear of God’s power. Sometimes they get released, but other times they don’t.
- Book: *The Sorrow of War* (Vietnamese war) - story showing the power or characteristics of God. ...and Jesus said...” “What did Jesus say?” God uses His Word.
- Story of missionary R J Thomas to Korea (died in Korea, but left Bibles that led to others coming to Christ). Look at their testimonies to gain a “Faith boost”

2. Faith Warning: Am I in enough trouble?

- “A priest loves nothing better than a prophet to stone.”
- What are your wounds for Christ this week?? Define the evil in your community. Warfare will begin when you are making a difference. This is the “Faith Challenge”!
- When you align yourself with Christ, He has enemies and they will come against you as well.

3. Faith Model: Am I walking in the path of the Cross?

- Is there something from the Persecution Church that we can model? What can you take out of China that will encourage you that you can model?
- We have to stop being so busy. We must take time to be with Christ alone.
- Persecution simplifies life. It strips us of all that we have been hiding under to be just you and Christ. It is what persecution does for you. We need to build ourselves a “cell” to be alone with Christ. Make space for God, pushing out the distractions...to receive His love. This is one of the most transforming things to do in your life and being effective for Him.
- Matt 6:6 ...possibly relating to “abiding in Christ”.
- To walk with God, you must walk at His walking pace (not fast or slow)...because He loves His garden.

4. How to kill the church? Not physically, but rendering it so unattractive (boring).

- You mess with the message...(you add to Christ). i.e.- registered churches in China are to preach “Love China and Love God”
- Promote paralyzing people to paralyze the church, such as the “super star” pastor (built around his own charisma)

Seminary President and Senior Pastor, Dr. Vegilla, in Cuba said: ***“After 50 years of Castro’s squeeze on the church, we learned not to fear, not to hate, and not to harm.”***

(violence tends to become a vicious cycle and so is not the answer to persecution).

Appropriate Biblical Responses when Persecution comes –

Refer to Dr Glen Stassen’s lecture notes on the Sermon on the Mount.

Discussion: How many times do you “turn the other cheek”? (Matt 5:21-7:12)

- Possibly....refuse to “escalate” in the violence, responding violence with violence.
- Endurance with patience.
- Hitting on the cheek could be looked at as shaming that person (like giving the finger to someone in Canada)....insulting that person. This wasn’t a household physical violence, but a personal social issue.
- In the Jewish culture hitting someone with your hand is given on the back of the hand....this was common culturally, but to allow someone to hit you on the left cheek, requires the person to use the palm of the hand, which was not culturally done.
Thought: the right hand is a hand of honor, and to use the left hand is a shameful thing....and so, to use the left hand in hitting someone is to bring shame upon the person who is GIVING the hit (they shame themselves).
- This is not saying that the person is to just stand there and take another hit.
- The thoughts involved here deal with being in control of yourself.....ie: you turn the other cheek, you give your own shirt if they ask for your cloak, you carry the bag a few extra miles....it is your own decision and therefore, you are in control of yourself.
- “An eye for an eye”....how does this apply in our culture....ie: fender bender responses in the same way. (video sitcom example: “Women Drivers” from TV program *Malcolm in the Middle*)
- Russian pastor’s statement to his teenage son: Life is not “fair” and God is not “fair”, but God is just!
- Nigeria is the largest missionary sending country in Africa. However, there is so much violence in the north of the country.
- Pastors there feel that they have “turned the other cheek” so many times. They feel that fighting is more redemptive than non-violence.
- There is a 3rd response (coming from a Nigerian pastor) that will bring just peace-making (justice): Martin Luther King Jr says, “Violence begets violence”, but active non-violence begets justice, love, peace, etc. (Stride toward freedom...King’s book). Following the Bible and Jesus teaching, Martin Luther King was stating that they should have “love” in a non-violence movement.
- Gandhi loved the Sermon on the Mount, and took some principles from it. Sad to say, he said that he never met a Christian who “lived it.”

Books - *The War of the Lamb* (by John Howard Yoder)
- *Faith and Force* (by David Clough and Ryan Stiltner)
- *Just War as Christian Discipleship* (by Daniel M Bell Jr)

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Contemporary Applications Of Suffering And Persecution</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 27</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Contemporary Global Issues – Advocacy – How do we help the Persecuted?</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>“[Traditional] <i>Western protocol for responding to persecution is to 1) stop the persecution; 2) punish the persecutors; 3) promote western forms of government and democracy; and 4) raise funds that will aid in rescuing of believers from persecution.</i>”</p> <p>Place above Statement on Board. In triads, decide if you agree or disagree.</p> <p>Read recent news items from World Watch Monitor about a recent persecution issue. Based on insights from past 26 Lessons lead a discussion that answers: “Now what...?”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read FTE Chapters 6,7,8 ...read S&B – Chapter 56,58,59,66,68 plus FTE Chapters 9-11 ...considered the traditional view of advocacy.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Review “<i>Faith That Endures</i>” Chapters 9 and 10 – [pp231-283]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The What Question – “What is their need?” • The How Question – “How do we intervene?” • The Who Questions - “Who do I trust with my support and money?” <p>Develop The Urgent vs The Strategic and 7 Tactics of Intervention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prayer/Intercession 2. Truth telling / Publicity 3. Private Representation 4. Legal Intervention 5. Illegal Intervention 6. Political Pressure 7. Positive Engagement <p>Constructive Engagement comes from Reimer’s article on Advocacy in <i>Sorrow & Blood</i></p> <p>Consider Case Studies from countries in TOP 10 of World Watch such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan – anti-blasphemy laws • Syria – civil war (affect on Christians) • North Sudan – expulsion of Christians born in the South • Eritrea – mass imprisonment of Christians • Middle East – treatment of “BMB’s” [Believers of a Muslim Background] • Nigeria – targeted violence by Islamic suicide bombers 	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...reviewed at least three (3) crucial areas of current persecution for prayer and further action. ...evaluated the (+) and (-) of the 7 Tactics of Intervention.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Role Play: Quickly set up a brief scenario with:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...considered the raw emotion and personal pain that</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Husband” of a kidnapped 13 year old Christian girl. 2. Girl’s father 3. Extremist religious leader 4. Father’s lawyer 5. Judge <p>Setting is a courtroom: role-play case where she has been kidnapped and is now married to new “Husband” who says she converted to Islam.</p> <p>Or...</p> <p>Discuss: Too much “intervention energy” goes into the urgency of releasing a prisoner (ie. for breaking an anti-blasphemy law) vs working on changing the strategic long-term deeper issue that cause the imprisonment (ie removing the anti-blasphemy laws).</p>	<p>accompanies real persecution issues.</p> <p>...<i>formulated</i> a personal position on what and how much intervention they will do.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Pray for believers in Case Studies</p> <p>Complete in 25 words: “By God’s grace I will help the Persecuted Church by...</p>	<p>(5 minutes)</p> <p>...<i>prayed</i> for specific countries and people.</p> <p>...<i>written</i> a personal response.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 27
Advocacy: How do we help the Persecuted?

“Helping the persecuted is messy, controversial and confusing...” – Ron Boyd-MacMillan

Review “*Faith That Endures*” Chapters 9 and 10 – [pp. 231-283]

- The What Question – “What is their need?”
- The How Question – “How do we intervene?”
- The Who Questions - “Who do I trust with my support and money?”

Develop The Urgent vs The Strategic.

and Seven Tactics of Intervention

1. Prayer/Intercession
2. Truth telling / Publicity
3. Private Representation
4. Legal Intervention
5. Illegal Intervention
6. Political Pressure
7. Positive Engagement
8. Constructive Engagement (Reimer’s article on Advocacy in *Sorrow & Blood*)

Reference Notes for Lesson 27
Contemporary Global Issues: Advocacy
How do we help the Persecuted?

Grace Amid Genocide: How Cambodia's Killing Fields became an extraordinary ex-Communist's mission field.

By Tim Stafford

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/june/grace-amid-genocide.html>

It shifts all glory away from suffering and to the God who meets us in that suffering."

Where Was God in the Earthquake?

http://blog.christianitytoday.com/women/2010/01/where_was_god_in_the_earthquak.html

For the glory of God. Why should we be fearful about answering the question of suffering.

What Jason Russell's Mental Breakdown ...

http://blog.christianitytoday.com/women/2012/03/what_jason_russells_mental_bre.html

We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to come.

Profiling Christians Who Have Suffered Under Chinese Communism

A non-Christian reporter profiles martyrs of the Middle Kingdom. A review of 'God Is Red.'

By David Aikman

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/october/christians-suffering-china-communism.html>

If you want to read one book that sums up the glory of the Christian witness under persecution and the tragic 20th-century story of China's Christians.

Suffering and Rejoicing in a Haitian Tent Camp

What I learned in this church surpasses anything I've seen at a stunning cathedral.

Richard Stearns

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/januaryweb-only/sufferingrejoicinghaiticamp.html>

(1 Pet. 1:5-7). Part of the mystery of our faith is the role that suffering plays in drawing us closer to God.

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 5 <i>Contemporary Applications Of Suffering And Persecution</i> Lesson 28 <i>Non-Violence: Application of Biblical Principles</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Show the short “Director’s Comments” from the DVD “Little Town of Bethlehem”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...read</i> Pdf Klein <i>...identified</i> biblical principles related to non-violence.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content</p> <p>Review Principles of Non-Violence developed in Day 3: Lesson 17. Divide the class into four groups. As them to “Discuss the issues related to violence and non-violence in...”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nigeria 2. Sudan (both North and South) 3. Palestine 4. Middle East Spring (Libya, Egypt etc) 	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p><i>...reviewed</i> principles on non-violence.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Divide class into two sides: DEBATE: <i>Stassen’s Transforming Initiatives are truly effective – VS – Stassen’s Transforming Initiatives are overblown and impractical.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p><i>...thought critically</i> about the impact of Stassen’s ‘Transforming Initiatives’.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>Personal ‘Take Away’: On personal time (as individual or a group) watch 77 minute DVD entitled” Little Town of Bethlehem (Israeli jet pilot and Sammy Awad, a Palestinian who believes in non-violence...this is a true documentary) by Jimmy Hanan. Promoting non-violence.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p><i>...agreed</i> to watch DVD of Bethlehem on their own time.</p>
<p>Materials DVD: Little Town of Bethlehem</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 28
Non-Violence: Application of Biblical Principles

Stride Toward Peace: The Mideast's Nonviolent Movement

By David Neff

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/july/14.49.html>

Violence in Nigeria: Breaking the Country's Fatal Deadlock

By Sunday Agang

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/april/nigeria-deadlock.html>

Christians Killed, Injured in Arab Spring Fallout

By Elissa Cooper

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/octoberweb-only/egypt-christians-killed-arab-spring.html>

Syria's Last Chance

By Dale Gavlak

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2012/july-august/syrias-last-chance.html>

<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contemporary Applications Of Suffering And Persecution</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Church: Essence, Function, Forms</p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook ☺ – Preparation – Connect</p> <p>Welcome to the final session! Have fun with the Introduction part “What is the Essence, Function and Forms of FISHING. Draw three large concentric-circles Center circle = Essence [Never changes. Always the same. Cannot exist without it: A Fisher (person) and A Fish!] Middle Circle = Function [Purpose of Fishing?] Outer Circle = Forms [How do we do Fishing? Hook, Net, Hands etc]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read SSTS pp.307-315 ...identified the meaning of Essence Function Form.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content Review what determines the Forms we use to achieve Essence and Function: Laws, Seasons, Size, Skills etc.</p> <p>Then repeat with three circles asking: “What is the Essence, Function and Forms of a CHURCH?. Draw three large concentric-circles Center circle = Essence [Never changes. Always the same. Cannot exist without it]: 2-3 Believer’s gathered in the Name of Christ Middle Circle = Function [Purpose of Church? 5 Purposes] Outer Circle = Forms [How do we “do” Church: Building, Cave, Prison etc.]</p> <p>Key point is for believers to see they are “The Church” – not the Building. The Church survives during Persecution.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...identified the Essence, Function and Forms of a Church.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Final Minutes: Prayer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...prayed for the Persecuted Church.</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’ Pray together for one another to “stand firm...and having done all...stand”!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...identified in prayer with the Persecuted Church.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 29:
The Church: Essence, Function, Forms

“Catching Fish” (as a concept)

1. Essence: Fish, fisherman
2. Function: To catch fish
3. Forms: hook, bait, dynamite, gun, net, etc.
4. Resources that affect the forms: laws & regulations of land, skill & strength of fisherman, size of fish, season, time of day, size of the fisherman (ie: boy or man)

Essence, Function and Form of the Church

1. Essence: people (more than one) with a personal faith in Jesus Christ
2. Function: Worship; Evangelism; Disciple; Fellowship; Ministry
3. Forms (will vary as it is where the people gather): Building, Under a Tree, House, Prison, Cave, Boat, Theater, etc.
4. Resources that affect the forms: laws & regulations, size of the body of believers, time of day or season, and the skills of the pastor or lay leaders.

1 Cor 12: depicts the church as a “body”, a “bride”, “branch”, “building”, “priesthood”, “flock”
House Church can function wholly if focused on the Essence and Function only because the forms are always changing.

What is happening in your community that is affecting the essence & function of the church it right now?
(group sharing about their own church experiences)

- Lack of substantial teaching to the body of the church on specific topics that would help them to live during the week.
- Distance to the meeting place/church building.
- Influences of society
- What is “Christian worship”? Different worship styles
- Linking with the community so that each will benefit from it...even though it can be complicated, but it does work.
- Buildings are cold and not conducive to worship.
- Prosperity teaching with immaturity in leadership, structure can be an issue as well.

The Victorious Church and Family
The essence and functions of the church are defined; forms are optional.

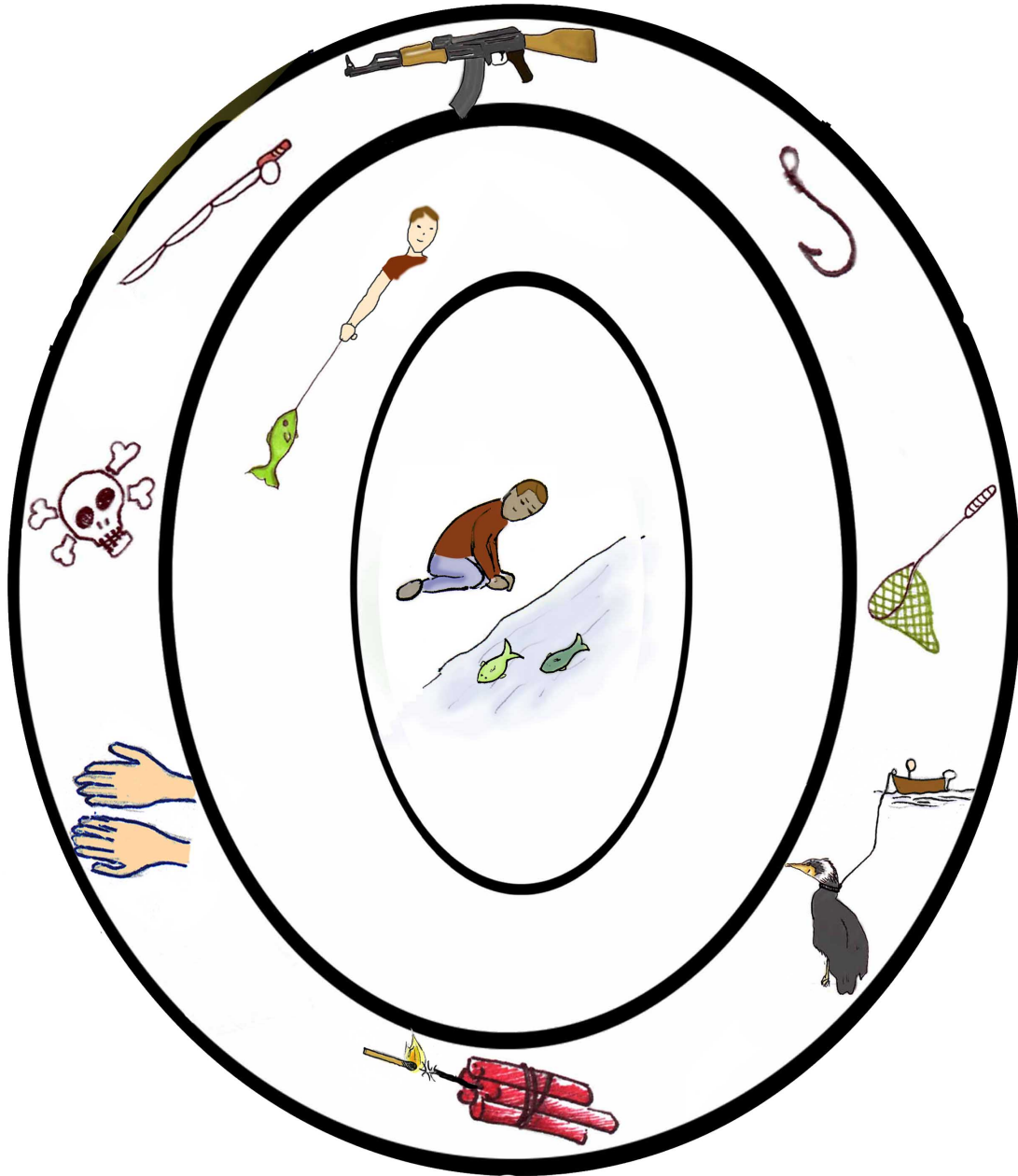
Acts 2:41-47.

Essence, Function & Forms of Fishing

Essence: A Fisher & a Fish

Function: To Catch Fish

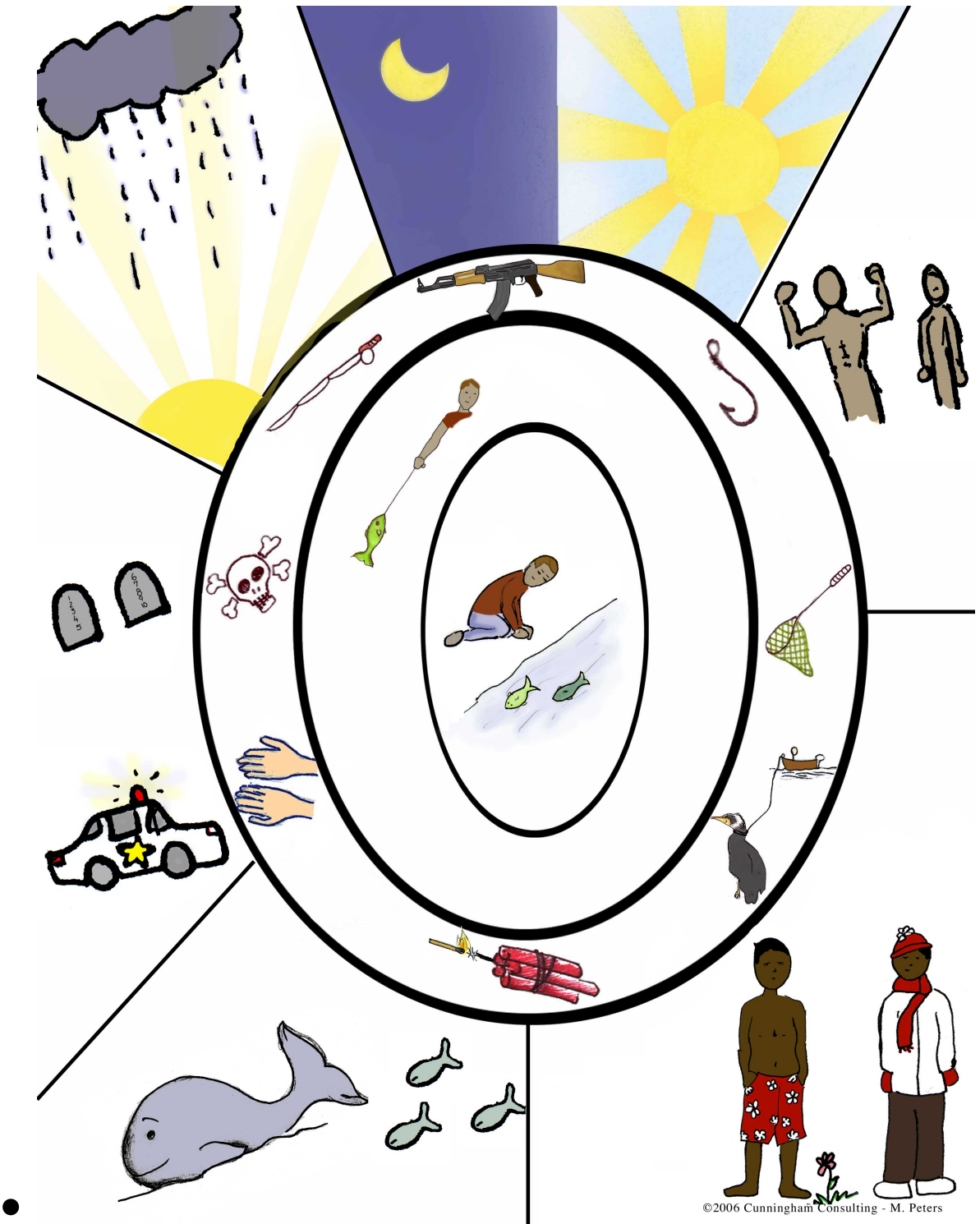
Forms: Hooks, AK-47, Hands



©2006 Cunningham Consulting - M. Peters

**The Victorious Church and Family
Essence, Function & Forms of Fishing Factors Affecting “Which Form” We Choose:**

- Weather – Rainy – Sunny
- Laws of the Country
 - Size of the Fish
- Time of the Year – Winter – Summer
- The Fisher – Size – Skill – Age



©2006 Cunningham Consulting - M. Peters

The Victorious Church and Family
Essence, Function and Forms of the church.

Essence

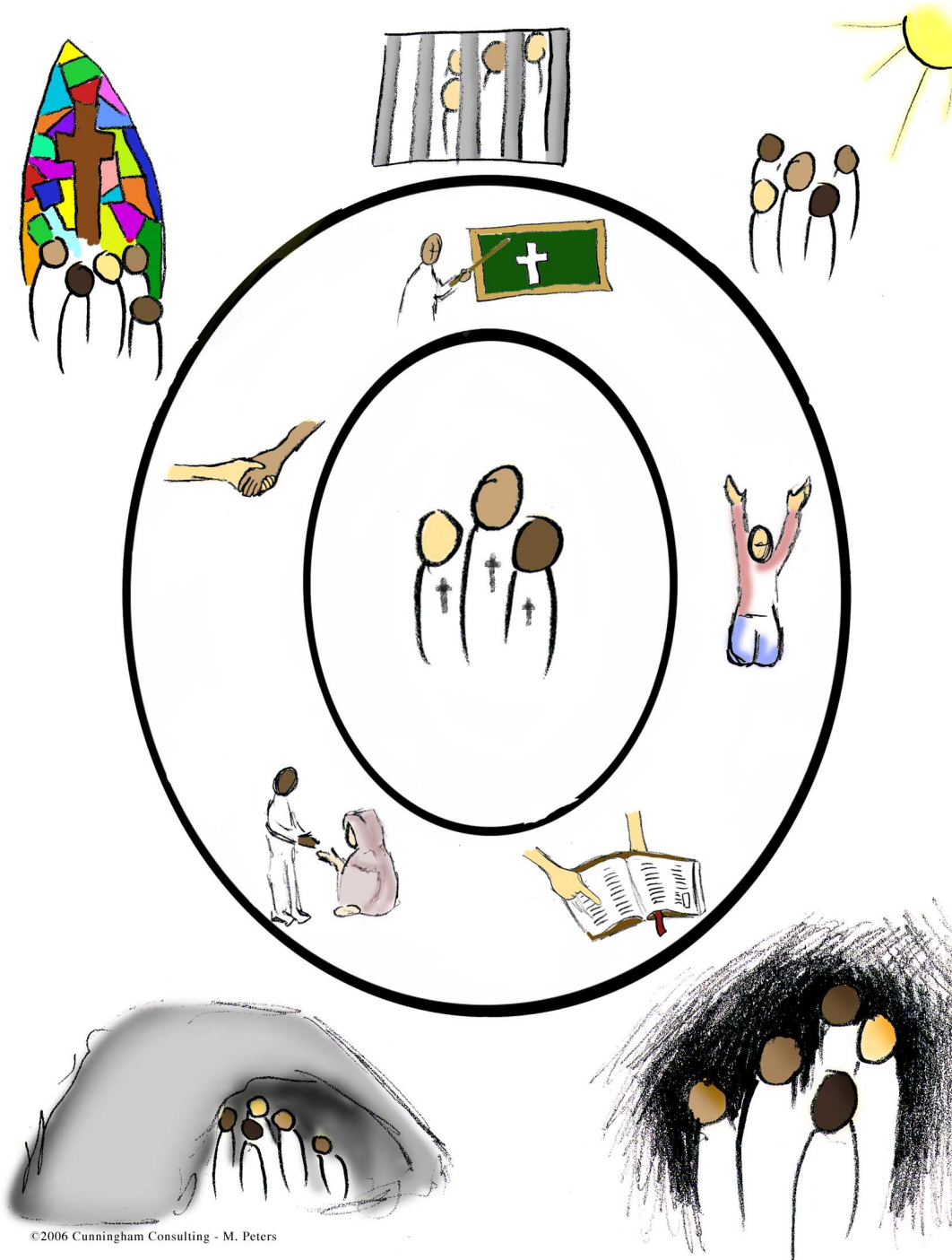
Believers gathered together in the name of Christ

Function:

- Worship Teaching Ministry Fellowship Discipleship

Forms:

In a building, prison, field, cave, day or night any day of the week



<p style="text-align: center;">DAY 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Contemporary Applications Of Suffering And Persecution</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson 30</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Crowns and Eternal Rewards</i></p>	<p>Learning Objectives Key Phrase: “By the end of this Lesson the participants <i>will have</i> (Past tense – of what they will know, do, or be) Learners will have...</p>
<p>Hello – Hook – Preparation – Connect Quick Debate: Divide the room into two groups. “We will receive Rewards/Crowns in Heaven” – vs -- an “We will all be equal in Heaven...no special rewards.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...read Ton Chapter 16 ...debated the topic of Crowns and Rewards.</p>
<p>Know – Book – Presentation – Content Consider the relationship between the previous (Lesson 23) Life Principles and how they relate to receiving Crowns/Rewards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wearing the full armor of God enables us to stand strong. • Victorious Christians live completely under the control of the Holy Spirit and produce His fruit in their lives. • Knowing, internalizing and obeying God’s Word guarantees spiritual victory during the storms. • Learning to persevere in prayer increases our guidance and peace in difficult times. • Fasting as an action is modeled for determining God’s will. • Suffering produces perseverance, which in turn produces character, hope, maturity and completeness. • Approaching conflict, we “wage peace” as ambassadors of Jesus. • Agape love is shown to everyone and even extends to our enemies. • Learning to encourage ourselves in the Lord, gives us strength to persevere when we are alone in our spiritual battles. • Encouraging one another is a source of comfort to those experiencing difficulties. 	<p style="text-align: center;">(30 minutes)</p> <p>...reviewed the meaning of Crowns and Rewards.</p>
<p>Show – Look – Practice – Consolidation</p> <p>Auntie Mabel's closing admonition in Beijing was: "The time is short. Jesus, the Bridegroom, is eagerly waiting to bring His Bride (The Church) to the marriage Supper of the Lamb." So like an eager groom He is saying to us: "Hurry up and finish the job so I can return..." How can we help Christ: "...finish the job...?"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(10 minutes)</p> <p>...considered ways to help Christ: "Finish the job..."</p>
<p>Grow – Took – Purposeful Response - Challenge (Go!) – ‘Take Away’</p> <p>From this moment forward... “I will...finish in 25 words or less...”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(5 minutes)</p> <p>...written an action plan to finish well.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	

Reference Notes for Lesson 30: *Crowns and Eternal Rewards*

A number of Crowns and Rewards are clearly spoken about in Scripture. They include the following:

A CROWN OF LIFE
Requires
Love Christ and Be Faithful Unto Death

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." -- James 1:12

Writing to the Church in Smyrna the Lord says: "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life." -- Revelation 2:10

Various commentaries indicate the Greek for this word is the usual term for the wreath placed on the head of a victorious athlete or military leader. This crown is given to those who endure in their faith until the point of death.

A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
Requires
Faithfulness and Loving His Appearing

Towards the end of his life on earth, Paul writes:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day -- and not only me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing." -- 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Possible interpretations for this text are:

- (1) there is a Crown given as a reward for a righteous life,
- (2) we are given a Crown consisting of righteousness or
- (3) a Crown is given righteously or justly by the righteous Judge.

However we view it, a Crown of Righteousness is given to each believer who keeps the faith and longs for the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A CROWN OF GLORY
Requires
Faithful Service

"To the elders among you I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers -- not because you must, but because you are willing as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve: not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."

Faithful service by those in positions of leadership in the Christian community is rewarded if given with the caring needed rather than for financial gain.

A CROWN OF REJOICING
Requires
Joy at Seeing Those We Love And
Led To Christ With Us In Heaven

Paul writing to the Thessalonians says:

"They (their Jewish countrymen) displease God and are hostile to all men in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. . .For what is our hope, our joy or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ when He comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy." -- 1 Thessalonians 2:15-20.

The greatest joy we can experience apart from seeing Jesus Christ is to meet in heaven, those we introduce to a personal faith in the Lord. Seeing these people in Heaven becomes our Crown of Joy!

AN INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN
Requires
Discipline, Obedience and Perseverance

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize (Reward). Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown (wreath) that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." -- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

This Crown requires the greatest effort possible of Discipline, Obedience and Perseverance. It means saying 'No' when others say 'Yes'. It means 'moving' when others are 'staying put'. It means 'resisting' when others are 'buying'. It means 'continuing' when others are 'quitting'. This Crown builds on 'chutzpah', is tested by persecution, and delivers through testing. It is pure and well earned.

ETERNAL REWARDS
Requires
Building Relationships That Lead To Eternal
Life For The One's Involved

"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on his foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames." -- 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

Our service and actions for Jesus Christ performed while we are alive in the flesh will be reviewed by fire at the Day of Judgment. If they endure they will be rewarded. If they are destroyed by the fire of judgment they will amount to nothing -- a waste of time and effort and resources.

What a motivation to keep before we plan and converse. We are going to give an account for "every idle word" as well as having the thoughts and intents of our hearts examined.

This leads to the following questions:

What is the Basis For Our Rewards in Heaven?

Paul answers this question in 2 Timothy 2:1-5 when he says: "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs -- he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. . ."

Crown's are issued in Heaven to those who compete "according to the rules". And what are the rules?

- Obey the commands of God.
- Be faithful to the will of God.
- Persevere in the plan of God.

God is the judge of how well we do/did these three things. It is not how gifted we are or how brilliant our mind but rather how humble our heart to follow His steps.

What Happens to Our Crowns and Rewards?

Scripture does not directly say what happens to our individual crowns. It does indicate the following in Revelation 4:2-11. ". . .there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. . .whenever the living creatures give glory, honor

and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being."

When the twenty-four elders lay their crowns before the throne as an acknowledgment that God alone is worthy of ultimate praise and worship, it is strongly assumed that we as God's forgiven family will also worship Him by laying our crowns before Him.

Laying a crown down implies it may also be taken back like taking off one's hat as a sign of respect or courtesy. The King James uses the image that we 'cast' our crowns before the Lord. Casting something away implies it is not retrieved thereby leading to this idea (perhaps false) that the crowns are 'cast down' in one mass service and from then on we carry no evidence of our spiritual rewards in Heaven.

The penitent thief on the cross who went that day to be with the Lord in Paradise supposedly had no opportunity to earn crowns - the Crown of Life notwithstanding. Our finite logic asks how can he be granted less spiritual rewards or glory in Heaven than a famous evangelist who 'earns' thousands of crowns as a soul winner? While the thief never had a chance to work for Christ as an evangelist, many evangelists use his salvation as a text for their evangelistic messages to bring people to Christ. Perhaps the thief gets a residual reward for the use of his story?

'Aunty Mabel', an 87-year-old Christian Chinese medical doctor living in Beijing, returned from Tibet where she went to tell people about Jesus Christ. We were sitting together in the McDonald's restaurant in Beijing listening to her encourage us to tell others about Jesus Christ.

The Church in China did not pour its time and money and energy into "retail stores" (buildings) and "advertising" (programs). Instead they discovered and implemented the greatest Network Marketing Plan in the history of the Christian Church. Each one, told one. Each one trained their downline and each one was supported by their upline.

The Church in China grew beyond all human imagination by Network Marketing Jesus Christ.

Paul says to the Church at Ephesus: "The Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free."

And the Lord said in Revelation 22:12: "I am coming soon, my reward is with me and I will give to everyone according to what he has done."

Thank you Lord for waking me up to catch a fresh vision of the power of Networking to fulfill your final command: "Go, make disciples of all nations. . .teaching them to obey whatsoever things I have commanded you..." In other words: Go -- network your faith -- make every relationship count as a prospective candidate for discipleship -- and the things you learn from your upline sponsor commit to faithful downline disciples, who will teach others also.

Auntie Mabel's closing admonition in Beijing was these words: "The time is short. Jesus, the Bridegroom, is eagerly waiting to bring His Bride (The Church) to "the marriage supper of the lamb". So like an eager groom He is saying to us: "Hurry up and finish the job so I can return." - Matthew 24:14 -- "And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come."

Together we can reach the world with the Good News that Jesus Christ is alive. Work hard -- pray hard -- the days are evil -- keep the faith -- your reward will pay eternal dividends -- forever!

APPENDIX A

My TOPAD Affirmation

I affirm that:

T - The goal of discipleship is for me to become conformed to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29).

O - Opposition, Disinformation, Injustice and Maltreatment should be expected and not surprise me (John 15:20).

P - Perseverance with alertness enables me to overcome Satan's 'internal' and 'external' tactics (1 Peter 5:8).

A - Adversity against 'The Suffering Servant' pictured in Isaiah continues until I become a 'Victorious Overcomer' (Revelation 12:11).

D - Discipleship requires me to daily bear the cross of Jesus Christ (Luke 9:23).

Therefore, I will seek to be a disciple of Jesus Christ until I see Him "face-to-face".

Name

Date

APPENDIX B

Dialogue re: TOPAD

The President of a conservative evangelical (North American) Seminary was asked if he would like to have **TOPAD (Theology of Persecution and Discipleship)** taught at his Seminary? His response was 'No!'

Reason? He said: "***Persecution is perceived as a harsh word and reflects the warrior side of Christendom. It is often taken over by evangelical fundamentalists who believe they are in a battle. We need to rather teach and promote love, respect and justice and thereby reduce the risk of persecution. From my perspective 'post-millennialists' are moving towards a Kingdom-building inclusive response of love and respect for diversity in our culture. We are trying to keep the walls permeable between us and other faiths and cultures. This permits the flow back and forth of ideas. America has shown us that things are getting better with justice issues like women's rights and freedom for blacks.***"

I asked a few seminary professor friends for their response. And respond they did. Here are three:

#1 Hi Jim,

I am a bit thunderstruck at the President's comments. How recently has he read his New Testament? I wonder. From Jesus' warning that we will be treated as he was because taking up the cross is dangerous, to the accounts of persecution in Acts, to the many apostolic encouragements that those who live godly lives will suffer persecution but that suffering is on the route to glory, the New Testament is replete with teaching about the persecution that is normal for followers of Jesus. We live in a world where most people are suppressing God's truth in unrighteousness and disobeying their own consciences, in deliberate disobedience to God, who will judge them by that criterion, unreliable though it is. It is not surprising that these people oppose what God is doing in and through the church.

You identified the President as leading a "conservative evangelical seminary" but I fear that if his leadership is followed, it will not be conservative evangelical for long. He seems to be working from a unitive pluralistic perspective. I share his positive attitude to dialogue with people of different religious persuasions. We, as Christians, are fallible, both theologically and morally, and because God works graciously outside of the church and even within the context of other religions (though not *through* them, instrumentally), we sometimes meet non-Christians who have grasped or are living aspects of truth and morality better than we do. But

there is one huge difference between the unitive pluralist approach and the biblical one. God has spoken uniquely and authoritatively in the Christian Scriptures and so we believe in absolute truths and absolute rights/wrongs. We have gotten used to knowing about persecution of Christians because of the conflict of absolutes between Christianity and other religions with their own absolutist claims. It is this absolutism that is now putting us in trouble in a very different context, in the relativistic pluralism that will not tolerate absolutes.

Christianity has had some bad moments in its relationship with other religions, but characteristically we alone have believed that God wants all people to have religious liberty and the freedom of conscience. We want to be at peace with everyone, to the extent that this is possible, and we know that military power is not God's means of evangelism. Certainly, we should relate to others with love, respect, and justice, but the "flow back and forth of ideas" between Christians and people of other faiths has to be conducted with reference to the truth that God has revealed in the Bible. The President's perspective sounds to me like a direction, which will certainly avoid persecution, but only at the expense of truth. He seems to want the walls of Christianity to be so permeable that what results will no longer be Christianity. For a man in his position, this is terribly sad and it bodes ill for the future of the Christian church in North America.

None of this is news to you, Jim, but you asked for my response. That response would need to be shared with the President in the context of lengthy conversation, and it would have to grow out of a relationship which made it doable, but this is a brother who is in grave danger and whose position consequently makes him dangerous, so I hope you can have a ministry to him and his institution.

Shalom,
T

#2 responded and I replied ([my reply inserted in blue](#))

Hi Jim,

I could not call that seminary either conservative or evangelical if he is allowed to lead it in anything...So I'll call it for what it is:

1) Christian persecution is world wide and not isolated to fundamentalists so that reaction/argument by the Pres. is totally irresponsible.

[Yes it's a harsh word...but the Bible uses it Luke 6, Matthew 10...wait virtually every book in the Bible speaks of persecution from Cain slaying Abel in Genesis to "not fearing for their lives" in Revelation.](#)

2) Both Jesus and Paul specifically state that persecution will (not might) identify His followers and it did so for all Christians in the 1st 3 centuries of Christianity! Timothy was told: "All that live godly shall suffer persecution."

3) Post millennialism (which he clearly espouses) has always had a greater tendency to "cultural accommodation" than any other position--take care. Much of what he affirms to substantiate his "anti persecution" position sounds like pure secular humanist ideology, not Christianity.

I am (today) on my way to teach at MBTS in Penang...I wondered if I should give this "Case Study" to Malay Christians living in a Muslim majority country and see what their response is to the comment.

4) The Greek word used in John 15:20 and consistently in the N.T. means precisely what the translators say it means-- " If they persecuted me, they will you also" He chooses to ignore Jesus words and yet pretend to be a Christian Church leader – pure blatant hypocrisy! His is not an optional Christian position – it is openly anti-Christian and thus irrelevant..

K, this is what I will call the "Luxury View" - held by a Post-Millennialists living for the past 70 years in a North American post-war, economically prosperous culture/environment – in freedom – with peace. The 'prophet' in me 'feels-it-in-me-bones' that his world (our world) is about to change to a 'New World Order' that will make Rome pale in comparison. Maranatha.

Sad, indeed.

K

#3 replied:

This sounds like the typical cultural accommodation that puts the cultural context above the authority of Scripture. It is one of the "best" politically correct statements I have read from a "Christian" educator. What about Ephesians 6?

D

APPENDIX C

SABAH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY [East Malaysia] Christian Witness in Contexts of Suffering and Persecution

Instructor: Cheong Weng Kit, PhD

Contact info: wkcheong@stssabah.org

Office hours: TBD

Phone: 088-231579 x 362

Course description: A 3-credit hour course that explores biblical, historical and socio-cultural perspectives of the phenomena of suffering and persecution. This course will emphasise the construction of personal, pastoral and missiological responses in contexts of suffering and persecution appropriate for specific demographic sections of Asia.

Objectives for the course:

1. To understand the biblical connections Christian witness, suffering and persecution.
2. To survey and assess the historical and social aspects of suffering and persecution in the Christian experience.
3. To formulate an appropriate Christian witness and response for the Asian context.

Structure and expectations for this course:

1. Structure: the course will be a semester long 14-week format in the weekday night.
2. Students should read all homework readings and be prepared to discuss them in class and to exercise Christian grace with regards to others in class interactions.
3. Students are to complete all writings assignments and to discuss them in a proper and timely manner for the indicated days. This includes submitting papers that are *typed* and *stapled*. Any plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the paper and penalty of failing the course (subject to the Academic Dean's office and STS student guidelines).

Course requirements:

1. Write a 2-page (400-500 words) case study paper where you report an experience of suffering or persecution in your country. Document the source and provide all important facts and details of this case. List three questions/challenges for the class to discuss about this case. (10%)
2. Facilitate or lead a 15-minute discussion in class (from your case study paper) on suffering or persecution **on week 10** (10%).
3. Write a 4-page (900-1000 words) reflection paper on after reading Christian biography. From the reading, discuss at least 4-5 key principles or lessons on how a Christian or the church can deal with suffering/persecution. **Due on week 7** [20%].
4. CHOOSE (a), (b) or (c) [see paper topic list below]: [50%]
 - a. Write a long paper (4000-5000 words) from the class paper topic list.
 - b. Prepare a seminar, project or sermon (4000-5000 words) for church ministry.
 - c. Craft a work of media/art (e.g. painting, compose a song, poem, video/photo, facebook, etc.) and launch/present it in a church mission month or post online.
5. Complete at required reading for this class. [10%]

Grading criteria:

- 2-page case study paper [500 words] = 10 %
- Lead a 15-minute class discussion = 10 %
- 4-page reflection paper = 20%
- Long paper/seminar/craft project = 50 %
- Class readings = 10 %

Required class readings:

- Read a Christian biography (e.g., Bonhoeffer, Ten Boom, Wurmbrand, etc.) or other biography (must be approved by the professor).
- Selected readings from *Sorrow and blood*.
- Lim Kar Yong (2007).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Homework
1-4	Old Testament perspectives on sin, suffering, persecution and evil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sin, suffering and evil: Gen 3 • Persecution and the authorities: 1 Sam 19, Jeremiah • Praying the psalms in trials, injustice and evil: Psa 23, etc. • Suffering in exile: 2 Kings 36, Esther and Daniel 1-6 	Write a 2-page (400-500 words) case study paper (due on week 2)
5-7	New Testament perspectives on sin, suffering, persecution and evil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus, mission, suffering and persecution • Acts and persecution (e.g., witness and church growth), Paul & Barnabas, Paul & persecution, Heb 11-12, 1-2 Peter • Suffering & persecution in Revelation: individual & systematic persecution, interpretations of the <i>eschaton</i> & suffering 	Write a 4-page (900-1000 words) reflection paper on after reading Christian biography.
8	Historical and social perspectives on suffering and persecution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why it happens and what causes it 	
9	Spiritual warfare, suffering and persecution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Sam 19, Job 1-2 	Begin working on your long paper or class project [due week 13]
10	Case studies on suffering and persecution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global/contemporary cases • Student case study presentations (facilitate or lead a 15-minute discussion in class (from your case study paper) • Mission agencies and missionary preparation for risks 	
11	A theology of prayer, forgiveness, healing, resurrection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology and cultural dimensions of prayer & forgiveness • Healing: psychological, trauma and deep-level wounds 	
12	Legal rights and advocacy in the Southeast Asian context	
13	Cruciform theology versus prosperity theology?	
14	Conclusion/catch up/open topic	

Some case studies we will discuss in this class:

- Allah issue in Malaysia: should Christians continue using the word Allah in their Bible?
- Should Christians allow Muslims to control the importation of the Alkitab in the country?
- Should a church erect a cross when opening a building in a Muslim-majority area?
- Should Christians forgive their persecutors when they 'know what they are doing' (e.g., Ambon in STSS book)
- Should Christians take up arms to defend themselves (e.g., Nigerian Christian-Muslim conflicts)?
- Should Christians lead a non-violent anti-government movement? (e.g., Hong Kong umbrella movement. See Wall Street Journal article)
- Should Christians stay or flee when persecution occurs?
- Should Christians work with international human rights groups?
- Can Christians lie to protect a life?
- *If there are other topics you would like to discuss/present in class, please consult with the professor to obtain approval.*

Example of topics for class paper topic options (choose one)

Instructions: for all of the topics below, you must (1) explain the biblical justification or support for your proposal or response (2) address the personal, spiritual aspect of how to help individuals confronting them (3) propose missiological and social/political practical steps.

- An unbeliever asks you this question: "If God exists, why is there evil in the world?" Write a response paper to answer this question. For this, you must also discuss secular/non-Christian/philosophical arguments.
- Write an exegetical paper and fully explain a bible passage or verse on suffering/ persecution. Consult the lecturer to obtain approval for your bible text or verse. For this project, you must use an academic commentary and use a Hebrew/Greek bible.
- Develop a theology of forgiveness and reconciliation and discuss a specific example (e.g., does forgiveness mean we have to be reconciled to the wrongdoer? Is 'forgive and forget' a biblical concept? Does forgiveness mean to pardon the wrongdoer?)
- Develop a theology of suffering, martyrdom and rewards.
- What is a Christian perspective on advocacy for the persecuted? Discuss biblical foundations and practical responses for (1) individual Christians and (2) the Church.
- Your church or ministry is persecuted by the government or by a group of religious extremists. Propose a comprehensive solution to the local religious body (e.g., Christian Federation of Malaysia, etc.) on how to resolve this.
- Survey a non-Christian doctrine of violence and how it is justified from their religious texts or community practice. Imagine you are in a dialogue with one of these people and give your Christian response to their doctrine "with gentleness and respect" (1 Pet 3:15).
- Examine all biblical examples of God's people who lied to avoid persecution or death and decide whether it is acceptable for us to lie today.
- Compare the doctrine of non-violence/pacifism OR 'just war' in Christianity. Explain which doctrine you believe is more biblical than the other.
- Compare the Muslim doctrine of *taqqiya* against biblical examples of God's people lying to save a life. Are they similar or dissimilar?
- What is the difference between *dakwah* and *jihad* in Islam? Interact with Islamic thinkers or books to explain them and provide a Christian response.

- Muslims are persecuted in Myanmar/China. Discuss if Christians should help them?
- Assess where [your country] is on the persecution index of STSS and propose biblical, missiological and practical social-political answers to address this reality.
- Choose a people group or element of an Asian country and discuss the extent of Islamisation there. Analyse this in detail and prepare a systematic Christian response.
- How can the church deal with spies? Discuss biblical principles and examples.
- PROJECT: Design an internship or evangelism project where you will expose or lead your people where there is risk of potential persecution. For this paper, discuss the following (1) a justification of the objective of this project to your church leaders (2) appropriate biblical principles (3) learning outcomes.
- SEMINAR: Design a 4-hour seminar (or 4 x 1 hour Sunday school lessons or Christian booklet) on (1) suffering and persecution as part of the Christian life OR (2) how your church can be prepared to face suffering and persecution.
- SERMON: Prepare a 10-page sermon outline (with a completed script) on the topic of suffering and persecution and indicate when you will preach it in your church.
- LITURGY/SERVICE: A person has just been martyred for Christ doing mission work in an area hostile to the gospel. Write down a liturgy or order of service for a funeral.
- SONG: Compose a new 3-4 minute song that can be used to encouraged believers in prison or those who are martyred for Christ. You must submit a song sheet with the musical score and notation. Attached to the songsheet a 100-word essay explaining the meaning of each element of the song, with supporting bible references or principles and perform it in class.
- CRAFT: Design and craft an object (a quilt, a handicraft, necklace, cross) as an object of encouragement or memorial for believers/widows who have faced persecution or death of their loved ones. Write a 100 word description to accompany the handicraft or object. You will present this painting in class and explain it.
- ART: Paint a theme or picture of Christians undergoing suffering/persecution and write a 100 word description to accompany the painting. You will present this painting in class and explain it.
- VIDEO/PHOTO: Shoot a 3-5 minute video/documentary on the subject of persecution/ suffering in Southeast Asia and post it on YouTube. The video must have some narration and/or explanation of the subject with appropriate facts/statistics related to the topic. Submit a 1000-1500 word script along with evidence and the link to this site.
- FACEBOOK/BLOG/WEBSITE: Design a website/FB/blog dedicated on reporting suffering/ persecution issues in Southeast Asia. The site should have appropriate statistics, some media/art content, commentary (neutral or Christian commentary) and other related links to other sites that would act as a clearinghouse and/or reporting/advocacy site. Submit a 400-500 word description of what this site is about or create a “WHAT” button on the site.
- Other topics – you must discuss them with the lecturer for approval.

Bibliography [* are Christian biographies]

- Aikman, David. 2003. *Jesus in Beijing*. Washington DC: Regnery.
- Ang, Samuel. et al, eds. 2008. *Religious liberty after 50 years of independence*. Petaling Jaya, Selangor: NECF Malaysia Research Commission.
- Arjun Appadurai. 2006. *Fear of small numbers: An essay on the geography of anger*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. 1959. *The cost of discipleship*. New York, NY: MacMillan.
- Boyd-Millan, Ronald. 2006. *Faith that endures: The essential guide for the persecuted church*. Grand Rapids: MI: Fleming-Revell.

- Caner, Emir Fethi and H. Edward Pruitt. 2005. *The costly call: Modern-day stories of Muslims who found Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel.
- _____. 2006. *The costly call, book 2: The untold story*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel.
- Dekker, Ted and Carl Medearis. 2010. Tea with Hezbollah. *Mission Frontiers* 32, no.2 (March-April): 11-13.
- Elliot, Elisabeth. *Shadow of the almighty* (various publishers).*
- Elliot, Elisabeth. *Through gates of splendour* (various publishers). *
- Estabrooks, Paul and Jim Cunningham. 2004. *Standing strong through the storm*. Santa Ana, CA: Open Doors International.
- Foxe, John. *Foxe's book of martyrs*. (various publishers).
- Griffith, Sidney H. 2008. *Church in the Shadow of the Mosque: Christians and Muslims in the world of Islam*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Kraft, Charles H. 2010. *Deep wounds, deep healing*. Chosen Books.
- Lim, Kar Yong. 2007. Is there a place for suffering in mission? Perspectives from Paul's sufferings in 2 Corinthians. In *The soul of mission: Perspectives on Christian leadership, spirituality and mission in East Asia (Essays in appreciation of Dr David Gunaratnam)*, ed. Tan Kang San, 64-78. Petaling Jaya: Pustaka Sufes.
- _____. 2009. *The sufferings of Christ are abundant in us*. London: T & T Clark.
- Malluohi, Christine. 2000. *Waging peace on Islam*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- Marshall, Paul. 1997. *Their blood cries out*. Dallas, TX: Word.
- Marshall, Paul, ed. 2008. *Religious freedom in the world*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Yousef, Mosab Hassan and Ron Brackin. 2011. *Son of Hamas*. Wheaton: Tyndale Momentum.*
- Metaxas, Eric. 2010. *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, martyr, prophet, spy*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.
- Nor, Hilmy. 1999. *Circumcised Heart*. Kuala Lumpur: Kairos Research Centre. *
- Nouwen, Henri J.M. 1979. *The wounded healer*. New York: Doubleday.
- Penner, Glen. 2004. *In the shadow of the cross*. Bartlesville, OK: Living Sacrifice.
- Sider, Ronald J. and Richard Mouw 2015. *Nonviolent Action: What Christian Ethics Demands but Most Christians Have Never Really Tried*. Chicago: Brazos.
- Piper, John. 2010. Filling up the afflictions of Christ. *Mission Frontiers* 32, no.1 (January-February): 12-13.
- Ripken, Nik. Recapturing the role of suffering. *Mission Frontiers* 32, no.1 (January-February): 6-9.
- Roy, Olivier. 2004. *Globalized Islam: The search for a new ummah*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Saeed, Abdullah and Hassan Saeed. 2004. *Freedom of religion, apostasy and Islam*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate.
- Schirmacher, Thomas. 2008. May a Christian go to court. *WEA Global Issues series*, vol. 3: 63-76.
- Sjogren, Bob. The other side of the cross: Suffering and the glory of God. *Mission Frontiers* 32, no.1 (January-February): 14-15.
- Sunquist, Scott. 2013. *Understanding Christian Mission: Participation in suffering and glory*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.
- Taylor, William D., Antonia Van der Meer and Reg Reimer. 2012. *Sorrow and blood: Christian mission in contexts of suffering, persecution, and sorrow*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey.
- Ten Boom, Corrie. *The hiding place*. (various publishers).
- Thio, Li-Ann. 2006. Apostasy and religious freedom: Constitutional issues arising from the Lina Joy litigation. *The Malayan Law Journal* 2 (March-April): i – xxii.
- Ton, Josef. 2007. *Suffering, martyrdom and rewards in heaven*. Wheaton, IL: Romanian Missionary Society.
- Wurmbrand, Richard. *Tortured for Christ*. (various publishers).*

Audio/Video:

Pressly, Lydia. 2006. Life as a secret Christian convert. *BBC News*. www.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/crossing_continents/6150340.stm (accessed November 22, 2011).

The End of the Spear

APPENDIX D



Associated Canadian Theological Schools CCM 575 A/PTH 575 A THEOLOGY OF PERSECUTION AND DISCIPLESHIP

James D. (Jim) Cunningham Ed.D.

Paul Estabrooks, M.A.

Summer 2014 May 5- August 20, 2014

Modular Dates: 07-11 July - 3 credit hours

CanIL Room 208 – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mon to Fri

Prerequisites – None

jim.cunningham@twu.ca

604.888.7511 (x 3964)

paule@od.org

519.473.4267

I. Course Description

“This course prepares Christians to minister to and disciple those facing pressure and persecution”

Participants examine principles of persecution and discipleship to increase their knowledge, skills and attitudes as encouragers of Christians facing pressure and persecution throughout the world.

Participants interact with scriptures related to persecution to describe how these principles might apply to regions where persecution has taken place or is currently being experienced.

II. Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will have:

- 1 *examined* scriptural principles related to suffering, persecution and discipleship.
- 2 *read* biblical examples of persecution from Genesis through to Revelation.
- 3 *identified* with persecuted Christians, believing that ‘*when one member suffers, all members suffer with it...*’ (1 Corinthians 12:26).
- 4 *developed* an understanding of Jesus’ example and His expectations for His disciples to walk ‘the way of the cross’ vs. ‘the way of our culture.’
- 5 *increased* their readiness to endure suffering for Jesus Christ by encountering life stories of persecuted Christians in the global context.
- 6 *gained* insight into the problems and challenges faced by Christians in regions of persecution.
- 7 *identified* our real enemy: his internal and external tactics in the world today.
- 8 *established* practical responses for responding biblically to crisis situations.
- 9 *designed and taught* a 2 Timothy 2:2 plan for training others to teach biblical principles of persecution.
- 10 *discussed* where and how North America fits into the persecution picture today.