

LIGHTHOUSE STUDENT HANDOUT

For Righteousness' Sake — Matthew 5:10–12

Main Idea

Believers are blessed when they suffer for righteousness' sake—not because persecution feels good, but because it identifies them with Christ, aligns them with God's people through history, and guarantees the hope of the kingdom.

Scripture

Matthew 5:10–12

Discussion Questions

1. What Is Persecution?

Jesus distinguishes persecution “for righteousness' sake” from general hardship.

Where do you see the difference between suffering for Christ and suffering for other reasons?

2. Why Is Persecution Inevitable?

Jesus says “*when*,” not “*if*.”

Why do you think many Christians today experience little pushback for their faith?

3. Blending In vs. Standing Out

Where are you most tempted to blend in with the world instead of living distinctly for Christ?

4. Joy in Suffering

Jesus commands believers to *“rejoice and be glad.”*

Why is joy in persecution so difficult, and what makes it possible?

5. Identified With Jesus

Persecution confirms your belonging to Christ.

How would your perspective change if you saw persecution as proof of identity rather than evidence of failure?

6. Kingdom Confidence

Jesus says, *“great is your reward in heaven.”*

How does believing in eternal reward change the way you face pressure or opposition today?

7. Church Application

What would a church look like that truly lived out Matthew 5:10–12? How could our group grow toward that together?

Personal Takeaway

What is one truth from these verses you want to carry into your week?