



# STUDY GUIDE

## ENCOURAGED 06.25.2017

### [set up]

Think about a time when someone took a position that you disagreed with and you treated them badly. What happened?

Think about a time when you took an unpopular position and someone treated you badly. What happened?

### [digging deeper]

**Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13.** What stood out to you in this passage? What stood out to you from this past weekend's message at CVC?

Take a personal assessment (see below). Then ask, "Where did you score highest? What is a growth area for you? Why don't we share our faith more?"

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### Personal Evangelism Self-Assessment Tool

- 10 - Very much true of me
- 7 - Typically true of me
- 5 - Moderately true of me
- 3 - Sometimes true of me
- 1 - Rarely true of me

- I often ask God to increase my burden for those who are lost.
- I regularly, systematically pray for non-believers I know and ask the Lord to help me win them.
- I intentionally maintain relationships with non-believers in order to share my story.
- I routinely show hospitality to people who are far from God.
- I look for opportunities to turn routine conversations into gospel conversations.
- I routinely share my story about my faith in Christ with non-believers.
- I have learned and can articulate an effective method of sharing the gospel story.
- I have memorized 8-10 verses that I use in my evangelistic conversations.
- I help others understand how to effectively share the gospel message.
- My actions and lifestyle demonstrate that I am genuinely committed to the Great Commission.

My score

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**Read John 15:18-20, 1 John 3:13, Acts 14:22, Mark 13:9, Matthew 10:36, 2 Corinthians 12:10, 2 Corinthians 4:8-12, 2 Corinthians 11:23-26, Hebrews 11:32-38, and 2 Timothy 3:12.**

Which passage is most challenging to you? Why?

Which passage is most encouraging to you? Why?

Brainstorm using a Giant Post-it. Write down the group's answers to the following question: What kinds of criticism, opposition, ridicule, rejection, alienation, or marginalizing have you faced for sharing your faith with your family, in the marketplace, or in your community?

Watch "Stories of Christian Persecution | North Korea"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1UWabuK4Ek&t=116s>

What emotions are stirred in you as you hear this story? What action steps are you inspired to take? How do you think God wants us in the West to respond when we hear stories about our brothers and sisters in the East who suffer persecution?

## **[living it out]**

Keeping an eye on the Giant Post-it used earlier, as a group, develop a strategy for how believers who face ridicule and rejection can overcome the temptation to abandon the faith and stop sharing Jesus with family and friends. What are 3 (or 5 or 7) steps that believers should take to keep the faith in the midst of suffering persecution?

Watch Pastor Chad share the 3 Circles Life Conversation Guide:

<https://vimeo.com/120597755>. Tell everyone to take notes because you are going to practice sharing with each other afterwards.

Split up into groups of 2. Give each person 3 minutes to share the 3 circles.

Come back together as a group. Ask, "What did you like about how your partner shared?" Then ask, "How do you think you could do better?"

Give everyone 3x5 cards. Ask them to write the names of 5 people they know who don't know Christ. Challenge them to pray regularly for them.

Close in prayer – praying by name for the lost, asking God for courage to be bold to share the gospel, and asking God to help members of the group be ready to face rejection and ridicule.