

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Can you share a time where following God made things uncomfortable or made you stand out? How did you handle it?

In Mark 13:9–13, Jesus warned His followers that opposition and hardship would come as they shared the gospel. Yet, like Him, we're called to endure "for the joy set before us" (Hebrews 12:2). When pressure or fear tempts you to back away from faith or mission, what joy before you helps you keep going and stay faithful to Jesus' call?

Mark 13:9–10 warns believers will face persecution, yet the gospel must go to all nations. How does this challenge us to trust God's mission over our own comfort? Reflect on Jesus' example in Phil 2:1-11, how can we practically follow Him and stay faithful even when opposition or fear makes it difficult?

Jesus warned His followers that family, friends, and society might oppose them. How can remembering that God's work continues through us give us courage when facing opposition?

Mark 13:11 reminds us to not worry about what to say when facing persecution. How does this align with Exodus 4:12, where God tells Moses He will be with his mouth and guide his words? What does this teach us about relying on God's presence rather than our own ability in challenging situations?

Mark 13:10 emphasizes that the gospel must go to all nations. In what specific ways can you participate in God's mission in your community or sphere of influence this month?

Following Christ may bring opposition from family, friends, or society. How can you practically stand firm in your faith this week, even when it's uncomfortable, and actively encourage others to do the same?

GOING FURTHER

MEMORIZE:

2 Timothy 1:8 – *Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God."*

NOTES FOR GROUP LEADERS:

SUGGESTED GROUP FLOW *(based on 60-75 min group meeting)*

Catch Up → Announcements → Read & Discuss Passage → Group Discussion → Prayer
5-10 min 2-3 min 10-15 min 30-40 min 15-20 min

NOTE FOR LEADER:

As we study the book of Mark, consider taking the following approach to help your group gain a greater understanding of the book, as well as apply the lessons from it. **FIRST**, read the passage from Mark (see top of previous page) aloud as a group. **SECOND**, spend some time discussing the passage. What stood out or what did you notice? What questions did you have about what you read? **THIRD**, discuss the sermon from the weekend. Was there anything that you learned, confused you, or stood out to you? **LAST**, spend some time going through the discussion questions below.

If there are no group announcements listed, take a few minutes to visit obcc.church/events to see what's coming up. Pay attention to baptism dates, next step classes, or events your group can attend together.