

Life Group Guide – Week Starting 1st March 2026

Key Scriptures: Mark 6:1-30

This week's BIG IDEA

Following Jesus has a cost, often a heavy one. To follow Jesus means to walk in his footsteps and carry his cross. What costs are we willing to pay for Christ? How do we respond to a world which hates and fears us? How can a Christian stay faithful under persecution?

Focusing on God

Read Romans 8:18-39 and spend some time praying prayers of thanks and worship for God's faithfulness and unfailing love.

Opening Questions

- Has anyone ever been treated worse than they might because of your faith? How did it make you feel?
- What attitude should we expect from the world around us?

Discipleship Discussion

Read Matthew 5:10-12

- How can Jesus say that the persecuted are blessed?
- What does this tell us about the nature of the Kingdom of God?

Read the following passages: **Matthew 5:44, 2 Corinthians 12:10, 1 Peter 3:14, James 1:12, Luke 6:27-28, Proverbs 24:17, Romans 12:14.**

- How do Jesus and the Apostles want us to treat our enemies?
- How is this counter-cultural?
- When you look at the wider church, particularly online, is this what you see modelled?
- How can we guard against hate and fear of the world around us?

Missional Prayer

Watch this video together as a group: [Top 10 | The Open Doors World Watch List 2026](#)

Pray for Christians in all of these nations. Pray for courage, faith, obedience, perseverance and protection.