

BLESS THIS HOME—4 PERSECUTED

- WE ARE NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN HOME.
- WE ARE A CHRIST-CENTERED FAMILY.

TODAY'S KEY THOUGHT

- IF YOU ARE A CHRIST-CENTERED FAMILY, YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven... Matthew 5:10-12

PREPARING YOUR FAMILY FOR PERSECUTION

1) EXPECT IT.

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... 2 Timothy 3:12

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also..." John 15:18-20

2) ENDURE IT.

...When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it. 1 Corinthians 4:12

- When family identity is strong, peer pressure is weak.
- When family identity is weak, peer pressure is strong.

3) EMBRACE IT.

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ... 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1 Peter 4:12-13, 16

TALK IT OVER

- What types of persecution have you endured as a result of striving to have a Christ-centered family and life?
- How would you describe your family identity? Is it strong or weak? Explain.
- What steps might you need to take to better prepare your family for persecution?