

# SG Discussion Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 4/21/13

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## The Persecuted Church Matthew 10.16-42

**Purpose of SG:** to foster in its members the biblical values of worship (God), discipleship (church), and outreach (lost).

**2013 Annual Focus:** Drawing Near to the Good and Mighty King.

**Announcements:** (1) For “Serve” SGs: How is your serving going? and (2) For “Study” SGs: What was one take away from the first week of Biblical Manhood/Womanhood?

### SG Discussion Questions:

**Focus:** *Jesus calls us to love and fear Him supremely, even when it causes us to suffer greatly.*

Read 10.16-25 What kind of suffering should Christians expect and why? Why do you think we are often spared great suffering?

- Have people share stories of suffering from authorities and, especially, families.
- Look at the list of degrees of suffering below and discuss which ones we are most likely to face in our culture.

Read 10.26-33. Though we are to suffer, Jesus says not to fear those who cause it. What reasons does He give for this? Which one do you need to think more about and embrace more fully?

Read 10.34-39. Why did Jesus come to divide? How is love divisive in this section?

Read 10.40-42. Relate the rewards of these verses to 10.13. What kind of reward do you think Jesus is talking about?

How is this passage a challenge or corrective to your thinking about persecution and suffering? What promise in this passage is one you need to have "at the ready" when persecution comes to you?