

## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

Kingdom Citizens: Week 9

### **Prayer**

Take a few moments at the beginning and end of your group time to pray for each other and for your discussion in God's Word.

### **Read**

Matthew 5:10-12

### **Main Ideas**

This week, we examined the last of the "Beatitudes"- Jesus' words of blessing to those who are persecuted because of righteousness. According to Jesus, living as a counter-cultural Kingdom Citizen can often lead to insults, reviling, or attack.

Jesus teaches that we should rejoice in the face of persecution in the hope of the Kingdom rewards ahead of us.

### **Icebreaker Question**

- When do you start celebrating/decorating for Christmas?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. When you think of persecution, what comes to your mind? How does Jesus define persecution in this passage?
2. Why might someone who pursues righteousness experience persecution in the world?
3. As you think about the history of the Church, what examples of persecution can you think of?
4. According to some studies, up to 1 in 7 Christians around the world experience persecution, and around 5000 were killed because of their faith in the last year.
  - a. Do those numbers surprise you? Have you ever been to a place where there isn't religious freedom?
  - b. What can we learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in this way?
  - c. How can we pray and support the persecuted Church?
5. In your life, have you ever been insulted or treated differently because of your faith? According to Jesus, how are we to respond?