



## 2025 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church Sermon Outline

### No One Gets Left Behind: Standing with the Persecuted Family of God

#### I. Introduction & Family Foundation

- Begin with *Lilo & Stitch* (“Ohana means family... no one gets left behind”).
- Acknowledge that the church family is imperfect yet precious because of God’s grace.
- Illustrate local examples of your congregation caring for each other
- Describe the “family” identity in Scripture:
  - Ephesians 2:19 — believers are “members of God’s household.”
  - 1 Timothy 3:15 — the church is “God’s household, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”
  - Remind listeners that we are no longer slaves but God’s children; this family stretches across nations.
- Transition: When one part of the family suffers, we all feel it. Persecution isn’t just a global issue—it’s family business. In God’s family—no one gets left behind.

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#### II. Persecution Snapshot

- Briefly summarize global persecution (e.g., 360 million Christians face high levels of persecution).
- Describe forms of persecution: imprisonment (North Korea), violent attacks (Nigeria), legal discrimination (Pakistan/India), destruction of homes and churches (Middle East/Africa).
- Emphasize: these aren’t distant stories; they are our brothers and sisters.
- Reiterate: This is family business—in God’s family, no one gets left behind.

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#### III. Point 1 — We Are One Body (1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 24–26)

*“For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. ... If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”* — 1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 24–26

- Exposit Paul’s body metaphor: though many parts, we form one body; when one part suffers, all suffer.



- Note the Corinthian context (divided community, elevating certain gifts). Emphasize that spiritual gifts and cultural backgrounds don't divide us—we are united in Christ.

Illustration – Maryam's story (Pakistan):

- Get the video here: <https://globalchristianrelief.org/videos/the-three-part-blueprint-for-freedom-2/>
- Maryam's husband became ill; she borrowed \$862 for medical care, which trapped the family in the brick-kiln industry for over twenty years.
- High interest and garnished wages made it impossible to repay the debt; even their children had to abandon school and make bricks, such as twelve-year-old Shazia making hundreds of bricks a day.
- GCR supporters paid their debt, provided a produce cart and donkey, and Maryam began selling fruits and vegetables.
- With the income, she built a home on land her husband had purchased before he died. She now feels safe and comfortable.
- Maryam says, *"What I have done, it's all because of God. He has done this all for me. So my faith is strengthened."* Reading the Bible gives her hope and courage.
- Her story shows how our family's suffering becomes *our* suffering—and how our support brings freedom and renewed hope.

Refrain: In God's family—no one gets left behind.

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#### IV. Point 2 — We Are Called to Remember (Hebrews 13:1–3)

*"Let brotherly love continue. Don't neglect to show hospitality... Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily."* — Hebrews 13:1–3

- Provide historical context: Hebrews was written to Christians who had endured public humiliation, imprisonment, and property loss for their faith; a harsher wave of persecution was looming.
- The call to "remember" is active and ongoing—praying, advocating, and helping, not merely thinking sympathetic thoughts.

Illustration – Tabitha's story (Nigeria):

- Get the video: <https://globalchristianrelief.org/videos/nigerian-christian-persecution-goats/>
- Summarize Tabitha's persecution, flight from Boko Haram, and transformation through GCR's support (as previously noted).



- Emphasize that by remembering and supporting believers like Tabitha, we enable the Church to shine the light of Christ in unreached places.

Refrain: In God’s family—no one gets left behind.

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#### V. Point 3 — We Are Strengthened by Their Witness (Revelation 12:10–11)

*“They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death.”* — Revelation 12:10–11

- Explain that Revelation 12 shows Satan defeated but still attacking; believers overcome by Christ’s blood and their testimony.
- Draw the Acts 8 connection: persecution scattered the Jerusalem church, and those who were scattered “went on their way preaching the word,” spreading the Gospel (Acts 8:1, 4).
- Use the historic phrase from Tertullian: *“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.”*

Illustration – Suman’s story: summarize her sister’s murder and her radical forgiveness, showing how persecution produces a testimony that strengthens us.

- [Get the video](#)
  - Refrain: In God’s family—no one gets left behind.
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#### VI. Prayer Invitation & Response

- Invite the congregation to pray for persecuted believers. Point to the GCR prayer guide as a resource.
  - Encourage them to commit to praying for one specific region or even one request this week.
  - Remind them: this is how we live out Hebrews 13:3.
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#### VII. Gospel Invitation & Closing

- Address those present who may feel spiritually orphaned—invite them to join God’s family through faith in Christ (John 1:12).
- Summarize: Jesus died for our sins, rose again, and offers us adoption into God’s family.
- If they already belong, challenge them to recommit to standing with persecuted brothers and sisters.
- End with a prayer thanking God for our adoption, asking strength for persecuted believers, and seeking hearts to respond to God’s call.