

# STANDING WITH THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: One Church, One Family

GLOBAL  
CHRISTIAN  
RELIEF

*“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*

*—Galatians 6:2*

## Opening (2 minutes)

**Leader says:** “Today, we’re stepping into the stories of Christians who face persecution for their faith. Our goal is to see how their courage and hope can inspire us—and how we can stand with them as one global Church.”

**Opening Prayer:** “Lord, open our eyes and hearts to the reality of our persecuted family. Teach us what it means to stand together as one Body. Amen.”

## Why does persecution happen?

- Authoritarian governments see Christianity as a threat to their power (e.g., North Korea, Eritrea).
- Majority cultures may see Christians as outsiders (e.g., India, Niger).
- Extremist groups target Christians with violence (e.g., Boko Haram in Nigeria).
- Official laws may restrict Christian worship or punish conversion (e.g., Saudi Arabia, Pakistan).
- Basic human rights—like religious freedom—are denied in many places.

Despite the pain, this is not the whole story. God is at work. James 1:2-4 reminds us:

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

## Share a Story (5-10 minutes)

**Leader Introduction:** One of the most powerful ways to understand Christian persecution is through real stories. Statistics and news reports can feel distant or overwhelming, but when we hear the journey of a brother or sister in Christ—what they’ve lost, how they’ve endured, and how God has met them in their suffering—it changes us. Stories help us move from sympathy to true empathy. They remind us that the persecuted Church isn’t just an issue “out there”—it’s about real people, our family in Christ.

For this section, you have two options:

- Show a short video (if you have the technology available), or
- Read or summarize the story provided below, so everyone can step into the experience together.

As you listen or watch, pay attention to what stands out to you. What emotions do you feel? What questions come to mind? How does this story challenge or inspire your own faith?



### Video: Nigeria: The Unexpected Power of Tabitha's Goats

**Leader description:** Tabitha is a Christian mother from Nigeria, one of the most dangerous places in the world to follow Jesus. When extremists attacked her village, Tabitha faced a heartbreaking choice: deny her faith or risk everything. She chose Christ, fleeing with her children through the mountains and into Cameroon. Along the way, she lost 14 family members—including two young nephews—and her mother-in-law was captured. When Tabitha finally returned to Nigeria, her village was destroyed and she had nowhere to go but a displacement camp.

But God wasn't finished with her story. Through Global Christian Relief's local partners, Tabitha received two goats as a small business start-up. Those goats became the foundation for a new life. Today, Tabitha has a thriving livestock business with cows, chickens, and ducks. She's able to provide for her children's education and rebuild hope for her family.

Tabitha's story is just one among millions in Nigeria, where Christians face violence and loss every day. Through prayer and support, the global Church is helping believers like Tabitha find strength, dignity, and a future.

Find these and more at: [globalchristianrelief.org/videos](https://globalchristianrelief.org/videos)

## Scripture Reflection (5-10 minutes)

Read together:

Hebrews 13:3 – “Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily.”

1 Corinthians 12:26 – “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.”

1. Hebrews 13:3 says to “remember those in prison as if you were together with them.” What does it look like, practically, for us to “remember” persecuted Christians today?
2. 1 Corinthians 12:26 says, “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.” How does hearing about persecution in the global Church affect your sense of connection to Christians in other countries?
3. How can the example of persecuted Christians help us live out our faith more courageously in our own context?

## Discussion Questions (10–15 minutes)

1. What stood out to you from the story or video?
2. How does hearing about real persecution change the way you think about your own faith?
3. Why do you think persecuted Christians often ask for prayer more than anything else?
4. What does it mean to be “one Body” with believers around the world?
5. How does learning about global persecution challenge or inspire you?

## Prayer Focus (5 minutes)

Leader: “Let's pray for those we saw and heard about—asking God to strengthen them, give them hope, and help them forgive. Let's also pray that we would have courage to stand with them.”

- Pray for persecuted believers by name (from the video/story)
- Pray for their families, churches, and communities
- Pray for courage and unity in the global Church

## What is Global Christian Relief?

Global Christian Relief (GCR) exists to serve and strengthen Christians who face persecution for their faith around the world.

They connect U.S. believers with the stories, needs, and courageous faith of persecuted Christians—helping the global Church stand together as one family.

GCR works in some of the world's most dangerous places for Christians, providing:

- Emergency relief (food, shelter, trauma care)
- Bibles and discipleship resources
- Advocacy for religious freedom
- Long-term support to help the Church not just survive, but thrive

### OUR MISSION:

To awaken the U.S. Church, build a movement of prayer and support, and fuel the Great Commission by standing with our persecuted brothers and sisters.

Learn more or get involved at: [gcrelief.org](http://gcrelief.org).

## Next Steps (2 minutes)

Sign up for GCR's Prayer Force Alert to get a quarterly prayer calendar.



- Share one story or video you heard today with a friend or family member this week.
- Visit [globalchristianrelief.org](http://globalchristianrelief.org) to learn more or get involved.

To take your group through a four-week Bible study about on the persecuted church, download our free guide, **The Ripple Effect**.

## Closing

*Thank you for standing with the persecuted Church. Remember: one act of prayer or compassion can create a ripple effect that reaches around the world.*