**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

***CONNECT:***

* *Have you ever experince a tension between living out your faith publicly in a culture that is increasingly pluralistic? If so in what ways?*
* *Have you ever experienced persecution as a result of your faith in Jesus?*

*We all want our family to enjoy peace, happiness, and contentment. However, we often stumble through our most important relationships. In "Bless This Home," we will discover four life-altering qualities: purity, peace, righteousness, and persecution. This week we will focus our time on Matthew 5:11, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.*

**Start Digging: Read Matthew 5:10-12, John 15:18-27, 1 Peter 4:12-19**

* *How are these passages of scripture similar? How are they different?*
* *Those that live out the qualities of Jesus’ Kingdom seen in Matthew 5:1-12 have become a blessing to our broken and fallen world. In what ways have the persecuted become a blessing to our world?*
* *In Matthew 5:10-12 Jesus tells the persecuted that they are blessed. What blessings can we find in the persecutions that we face?*
* *Why do you think the world is growing increasingly more hostile towards Christian belief & living?*
* *How do you find yourself responding to the increased hostility towards Christianity in America?*
* *What do you think Jesus meant by “A servant is not greater than his master?” How have you found yourself living as if you were greater than your master?*
* *What is the purpose of “fiery trials” according to 1 Peter 4:12? Have you experienced any fiery trials or hardships that tested your faith?*

**Digging Deeper:**

* *What is one insight, observation, or truth that you are taking away from this study?*
* *What is one intentional step that you will commit to take as a result of what you have learned from this study?*

“Bless This Home”

“Blessed are the Persecuted”

Wave Church SD | Aug. 27th, 2017

**WE ARE NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN HOME,**

**WE ARE A CHRIST-CENTERED HOME.**

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

**Matthew 5:10-12 (ESV*)****10“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

**PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR PERSECUTION**

**EXPECT IT.**

**2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)** *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted…*

**John 15:18-20 (ESV)** *18“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.*

**ENDURE IT.**

**1 Corinthians 4:11-12 (ESV)** *11To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, 12and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; 13when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.*

**Jeremiah 12:5 (ESV)***5“If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses?  And if in a safe land you are so trusting, what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?*

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

**EMBRACE IT.**

**1 Peter 4:12-16 (ESV)** *12Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 15But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 16Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.*

**John 15:20 (ESV)***20Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.*