



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 1: Our Inheritance

Suggested Week of Use: March 2, 2025

Core Passage: 1 Peter 1:3-12

News Story Summary

Exile. Persecution. Standing firm in the faith. Exercising hope. These are all things that Farooq is experiencing right now in northern India, a predominantly Muslim region of that nation. Several years ago, Farooq turned to Christ as his Savior and Lord. Prior to that decision, he had been an imam, an important leadership position in local Islamic mosques. But when Farooq was exposed as being a Christian, he was severely beaten. As a result, he and his family are currently in hiding and searching for refuge and encouragement.

For more about this story, search for “Former imam voice of the martyrs.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, write “Persecution” on the board and lead adults to share what comes to mind when they hear that word. Read the story of Farooq and how he has been persecuted for his faith in India. Ask: *How are Christians in our community persecuted? How have you, personally, experienced persecution for being a believer?* Explain that many American Christians don’t experience intense suffering for their beliefs, so they don’t always realize the degree of persecution that still exists around the world and how believers in other countries face ongoing persecution for their faith. Note that today’s session begins a study of 1,2 Peter and Jude with a look at how Peter’s audience found hope in Jesus despite persecution. Point out that many contemporary Christ followers are seeking hope just as Peter’s readers were looking for hope in the midst of their persecution.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, review the story about Farooq. Ask: *What impact does knowing that believers around the world are facing beatings and even death for their faith in Jesus have on you personally?* Take some time to pray that God would provide hope and encouragement for persecuted believers, like Farooq. Pray that their suffering would bring glory to Jesus and that their persecutors would learn the truth about salvation that can only be found in Jesus. Encourage adults to look for opportunities to encourage believers around them who are suffering and to lean into the living hope of Jesus when they feel persecuted.