



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 6: Our Task

Suggested Week of Use: April 5, 2026

Core Passage: Matthew 28:1-10,16-20

News Story Summary

Christians around the world experience persecution in various ways: denial of basic needs, forced marriages, exile, detainment, violence, death, and the destruction of property. The World Watch List 2026, created by the organization Open Doors, reveals that one out of seven Christians are persecuted around the world. More than 338 million Christians have suffered high levels of persecution and discrimination. North Korea has been considered the Watch List's most dangerous nation for twenty-four years. Last year almost 5,000 Christ followers were martyred worldwide, including nearly 3,500 in Nigeria alone. The statistics are high and likely conservative since many instances go unreported.

For more about this story, search “Open Doors Persecution Watch List.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: *What is the best news you've ever gotten? Who did you share it with first?* Discuss responses. Point out that on Easter, we're reminded that the empty tomb is a real reason for believers to rejoice. Note that for many believers around the world, persecution comes along with celebrating the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Share the information from the Open Doors Watch List above. Ask: *What obstacles to faith do we experience? How do our struggles compare with Christians in places like North Korea and Nigeria?* Challenge adults to consider how the Easter story transforms lives nearby and around the world—and what price they are willing to pay to share the good news with others.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, ask: *Who first shared the gospel with you?* Allow a few volunteers to share brief testimonies. Emphasize that Jesus's resurrection is history's greatest announcement. Remind adults about the Open Doors information on persecution. Ask: *Why do believers continue worshipping Jesus despite such great persecution?* Allow adults to respond. Ask: *How can we help them?* Spend a few minutes praying for persecuted believers around the world. Close the session in prayer, asking God to help adults share their faith openly this week and to spend time praying for their persecuted brothers and sisters.