



# CIBC Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

*This guide is designed to help guide life group discussions of this week's sermon at Cayman Islands Baptist Church. For more information on life groups and other discipleship opportunities at CIBC, please visit [www.cibaptist.ky](http://www.cibaptist.ky).*



## Get the Picture

**-Title:** *“Blessed those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of God.”*

**-Series/Text:** The Flourishing– Matt. 5:1-12

**-Date:** Nov. 22, 2020

**-Speaker:** Pastor Steve

**-Main Idea:** The flourishing person in the kingdom of God is one who suffers persecution for righteousness sake.



## Group Discussion

### a) Connect

- 1) **Commit:** Before you begin, agree as a group that you will commit to having an honest discussion about this text without casting any judgment or sharing any unsolicited advice.
- 2) **Read:** Read **Psalm 139:23-24** out loud before you pray to begin the discussion.
- 3) **Pray:** Pray over the group and ask the Lord to *“Search your heart”* and reveal idols that are keeping you from receiving truth.

### b) Engage

- 1) **Read:** Read Matthew 5:1-12 and look for repeating words and major themes that stand out. How do these observations help you understand the section as a whole?
- 2) **Discuss:** In today's passage, Jesus mentions two specific reasons for being persecuted. The first is “because of righteousness” (v10). What does it mean to be treated unfairly for being righteous?
- 3) **Discuss:** The second way you could be persecuted is “because of [Jesus]” (v11). What would this look like – in high school? In business? Parents with kids in sports? Could this happen even in church?
- 4) **Discuss:** What's your first reaction to hearing that persecution is the norm for a Christian?
- 5) **Discuss:** Read v12 again. What does it reveal about what attitude Jesus wants us to have when persecuted?
- 6) **Discuss:** How does persecution reveal the treasure that is the kingdom of God?

### c) Apply

- 1) **Consider:** How can we more confidently engage our community in the name of Jesus? Does the quote below by Peter Kreeft help at all? Discuss. In a cruel and simple society, persecution takes a cruel and simple form. Christians are thrown to the lions.... In a comfortable and complex society like ours, persecution is more insidious because it is masked. It is an attack on the mind, not the body. It takes place in the media, not the coliseum.

What do you think of Gregory Brown's thoughts on suffering for Christ?

1. Joy in suffering for Christ is a Divine bestowal.
2. Joy in suffering for Christ is a discipline.
3. Joy in suffering for Christ is a result of redeemed thinking.

### d) Pray

- 1) **Silent Prayer:** Enter into a time of silence to allow God to speak to you in response to everything you discussed today. Listen for areas where He may be telling you He wants you to step out in obedience.
- 2) **Group Prayer:** After a time of silence, close out the study with a group prayer for God's grace to suffer well for Christ.



### Going Deeper

- 1) **Test yourself:** Do you know the Beatitudes by heart now? You can memorize them by thinking about a staircase. Begin with poor in spirit and walk up until you get to suffering for Christ.