



2 Timothy 3:10-17

^{2TI 3:10} You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

LIFE Community Leader's Guide

Sunday, February 25

Big Idea: Refined By Fire: Learning from the Persecuted Church.

Key Verse: In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

Opening Question: When you hear the word “missionary”, what thoughts, images, or impressions come to your mind?

Study/Discussion Questions:

- Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17
- In this letter, Paul is writing to his young apprentice Timothy. He is encouraging him to stand strong in the midst of persecution and suffering. Have you ever had an older mentor demonstrate strong faith during a season of suffering or difficulty?
- On Sunday, Pastor Samuel spoke about the church in Nepal and how it has grown in the midst of significant persecution. What is it about persecution that helps strengthen the church?
- Verse 11 suggests that God's presence was especially known by Paul during his time of suffering and persecution. In what way do you think He was there with Paul?
- Have you ever experienced persecution or suffering for your faith? What was that like for you?
- Read verse 12. Do you find comfort in this verse? Is it challenging? Does it bring anxiety or fear?
- Pastor Samuel listed a variety of reasons why God might allow His people to suffer.
 - Persecution fulfills the prediction of Christ in John 15:20.
 - Persecution is allowed for the benefit of believers.
 - Persecution is allowed to test our faith
 - Persecution is allowed to bring us joy
- Some of these reasons for persecution seem counter-intuitive. How can persecution benefit us or bring us joy?
- Is there a difference between persecution that comes from authentic faith and persecution that comes from Christians acting poorly?
- Paul calls Timothy to prepare himself for trouble ahead. What are some of the things he encourages him to do (vs 14-17)? How might this be good preparation for persecution?
- Did anyone attend any of the Global Awareness opportunities this week? What did you hear, see, or learn?