

FAITH

DESCRIPTION: WE FACE TRIALS BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH. WE ARE MADE FUN OF. WE ARE LEFT OUT. BUT 1 PETER 1:7-8 SAYS THESE TRIALS ARE MEANT TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH AND TO PROVE TO US AND EVERYONE ELSE THAT OUR DEVOTION TO CHRIST IS SINCERE. THIS VIDEO HELPS TEACH THAT THE TRIALS WE FACE FOR CHRIST'S SAKE SERVE A VERY VALUABLE PURPOSE.

Show the Video

Discuss

- Do you agree or disagree with the statement the video makes: "The Life of a Christ-follower isn't easy." If we were to make a list of all the things that make following Christ difficult, what would be on that list?
- If we believe in Jesus, and believe that His way is the right way . . . the only way . . . why is it sometimes still hard to stand up for Him? What is it about us that makes going against the crowd so uncomfortable?
- Here's something to make you think: Living in the US, persecution is different. People may call you names or leave you out. But Christ-followers (even teenage ones) in other countries may face beatings or even death for their faith. How does this difference make you feel about taking a stand for your faith?
- If you are not facing trials or challenges because of your faith, what does that say about the way you are living out your beliefs?

Close with the Word

- Have students turn to 1 Peter 4:12-16. Read or have a student read it aloud. Explain that Peter was writing his letter to Christ-followers who were beginning to experience persecution because of their faith.
- Then, ask:
 - o **According to Peter, what should our attitude toward suffering be?**
 - *Answer:* We should expect it as part of being a Christ-follower.
 - o **What should our response to suffering be? Why?**
 - *Answer:* We should rejoice because in the same way, Christ suffered. It's an innocent suffering (unlike the suffering of a "murderer or thief") and should be counted as a blessing.
- Remind students of the video's message. The trials and challenges we experience because we follow Christ show the world that we're serious about our faith. They show the world that Christ is worth following.