

1. Describe a time when you faced insult, suffering, or persecution because of a stand you took for Jesus Christ. What about the situation made you convinced of its worth?
2. Read Hebrews 11. List the ways these biblical characters faced persecution. You may wish to do some cross-referencing (i.e. look up their stories in their biblical contexts). How does the persecution they faced give you confidence to face whatever persecution God allows in your life?
3. Read 2 Tim 3:12. Reflect on how you've faced persecution in your own life. Is it there? How has it played out? How would you say your commitment to living out the principles of the Beatitudes and reflecting Christ has contributed (or not) to the levels of persecution you've faced?
4. Read Isaiah 53:1–12. How does the suffering of Jesus give you hope to suffer as well? Take a few moments to thank Jesus for his suffering and invite him to help you keep your eye on the reward of persecution as you endure it in this life.