

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

“CSI: CONSUMING HATE”

In a nation of religious freedom we often forget that Christians all over the world are killed for their faith. This week we will study a man who was bent on destroying Christians, even calling for their deaths. Yet, this same man became the greatest Christian evangelist this world has ever known.

DAY 1

Today's Scripture:
Acts 6:8-8:3

The Word

We are going to read about a man named Stephen. As you read this story I want you to imagine this man as someone you know, someone who is your best friend. I want you to experience the shock and the pain of the events so that you will be able to fully enter the feelings of the rest of the week. Do not skim these verses but allow yourself to be immersed into them. Be on the lookout for another name in this story: Saul.

Acts 6:8-8:3

⁸Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, ¹⁰but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

¹¹Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."

¹²So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

¹Then the high priest asked him, "Are these charges true?"

²To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. ³'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.'

⁴"So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living. ⁵He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. ⁶God spoke to him in this way: 'Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. ⁷But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves,' God said, 'and afterward they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.' ⁸Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.

⁹"Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him ¹⁰and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.

¹¹"Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our fathers could not find food. ¹²When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers on their first visit. ¹³On their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family. ¹⁴After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all. ¹⁵Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our fathers died. ¹⁶Their bodies were brought back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a certain sum of money.

¹⁷"As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased. ¹⁸Then another king, who knew nothing about Joseph, became ruler of Egypt. ¹⁹He dealt treacherously with our people and oppressed our forefathers by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies so that they would die.

²⁰"At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for in his father's house. ²¹When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. ²²Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

²³"When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites. ²⁴He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. ²⁵Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. ²⁶The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?'

²⁷"But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? ²⁸Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?'

²⁹When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons.

³⁰"After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. ³¹When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to look more closely, he heard the Lord's voice: ³²'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

³³"Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals; the place where you are standing is holy ground. ³⁴I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'

³⁵"This is the same Moses whom they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶He led them out of Egypt and did wonders and miraculous signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the desert.

³⁷"This is that Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.' ³⁸He was in the assembly in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; and he received living words to pass on to us.

³⁹"But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. ⁴⁰They told Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we don't know what has happened to him!' ⁴¹That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and held a celebration in honor of what their hands had made. ⁴²But God turned away and gave them over to the worship of the heavenly bodies. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets:

" 'Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings
forty years in the desert, O house of Israel?

⁴³You have lifted up the shrine of Molech
and the star of your god Rephan,
the idols you made to worship.

Therefore I will send you into exile' beyond Babylon.

⁴⁴"Our forefathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. ⁴⁵Having received the tabernacle, our fathers under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, ⁴⁶who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷But it was Solomon who built the house for him.

⁴⁸"However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says:

⁴⁹"Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord.

Or where will my resting place be?

⁵⁰Has not my hand made all these things?"

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵²Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it."

⁵⁴When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

¹And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ²Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. ³But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

Up Close and Personal

Pray for the Christians around the world who are forced to stand trial for their faith, many are sentenced to death just like Stephen.

What stood out to you the most during the reading today?

Compare Stephen and Saul.

DAY 2

Today's Scripture:
Acts 9:1-9

The Word

Most of us have played the game of hide and seek. One person attempts to find everyone hidden. While the game is fun living a life of “hide and seek” is a miserable experience. All over the world Christians hide from those who want to hurt them. Governments and other religious groups seek to find Christians to imprison them, torture them, or even kill them. Often entire villages are targeted if Christians are known to live in them. Thousands of innocent people are killed each year. Hide and seek is a frightening way to live.

Acts 9:1-2

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Verse 1-2: Saul was determined to play the game of hide and seek. Of course, it wasn't really a game. Saul was breathing out “murderous threats”. He wanted all Christ followers to be dead. He was serious. He had been a part of Stephen's stoning and was amiable with the idea of more followers of the Way (Christians) to suffer the same fate. Determined to find the believers, Saul was willing to travel to the city of Damascus to bring them back as prisoners.

Acts 9:3-6

³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Verse 3-6: Saul wanted to find followers of the Way, but Jesus found Saul, who did not know he was lost. Saul thought he was the seeker not the hidden. But from heaven's viewpoint, the followers of the Way were found and Saul was the one hidden from truth. In a radical game plan, Jesus Himself speaks to Saul and says “Tag, you're it.” (That's a very loose paraphrase.)

Acts 9:7-9

⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

Verse 7-9: The game switched from hide and seek to follow the leader. Saul who had led the way in persecuting Christians, now was being led by hand to the city of Damascus. With the loss of sight went the loss of mission. If you were suddenly struck blind, you would no longer care about persecuting other people. You would be focused on having your sight restored. Saul knew that Jesus had taken his sight which led to the conclusion that Jesus could restore it. In the darkness, his mind must have returned back to the road to Damascus. The last thing he saw was a bright light. What did it all mean? He would have to wait three days to find out.

Up Close and Personal

Praise God for the time that Jesus found you and brought you unto salvation. If you have not asked Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of your life, you can do that right now.

Write down your story of becoming a follower of Jesus Christ. It is just as amazing as Saul's conversion.

DAY
3

Today's Scripture:

Acts 9:10-22; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

The Word

I knew a lady who disliked the senior pastor at her church. She believed he was theologically inaccurate and thought he made decisions based on himself, not of the good for the people under his care. She gossiped about him and was irritated to be around him. But one day she felt like God told her to approach him in a humble spirit. She was prompted to go to him during the final hymn of the service and wash his feet. She ignored the Lord's word for a short time but then she finally obeyed. I was sitting on the same row as the pastor as she approached him with a basin of water and a towel. As she washed his feet, I saw people in the choir crying at her humble act. We were all moved by her obedience.

The Lord asks us to approach people with whom we disagree, with whom we do not get along with, with whom we may even fear. But when we are obedient, we experience tremendous blessings. There was a man who had to approach Saul, even while knowing that Saul was there to kill followers of Christ.

Acts 9:10-14

¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

Verse 10-14: The Lord gave Ananias specific directions on where to go and what to do. Ananias was understandably cautious. The violent reputation of Saul had preceded him to the city of Damascus. Ananias may have been in hiding to prevent arrest. I can relate to the hesitation of Ananias but when God tells us to go, we need to go for He alone knows the future.

Acts 9:15-16

¹⁵But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Verse 15-16: Ananias only knew about Saul's cruel past. The Lord knew about Saul's future. He was calling the zealous Jew to be a witness to Gentiles. The former persecutor would be persecuted. Saul had seen others suffer for the Name of Christ and he would suffer one day as well.

The Lord sees who we will become. Often we see only the past and think "I could never be useful to God's kingdom. He would never want me because of what I have done". We dismiss ourselves because we know what we were. God does not give up on us. Who else would have thought that the leading abuser of the church would become the world's greatest Christian missionary? Only the Lord could orchestrate such an amazing turn of events. We need to stop focusing on our past but allow the Lord to transform us for the future.

The first person who was told about Saul's future was Ananias. The Lord shared with this disciple what he was getting ready to do in the life of Saul. We need to encourage

one another spiritually. Because of Ananias, Saul would be placed on a path that would change the world.

Acts 9:17-19

¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

Verse 17-19: "Brother Saul" is the introduction Ananias has with Saul. Saul had wanted to lay his hands on believers to throw them into prison; Ananias lays his hands on a new believer to have him receive sight. The first face that this former persecutor sees is the face of someone that only three days before he would have arrested. But the looks of hate was replaced with awe as the power of God is displayed. The blind can now see, not only with his eyes but also with his heart.

Saul's conversion was immediately evident. He was baptized publicly proving his faith. But beyond that, he began to prove Jesus as the Son of God.

Acts 9:20-22

²⁰At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²²Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

Verse 20-22: Saul was thoroughly versed in Old Testament Scripture for he was a Pharisee, a learner and keeper of the law. From what he knew, he was able to effectively argue the case for Christ. The fiery personality that had wanted to squelch Christianity is now on fire to spread Christianity. His debate skills were unmatched. His opponents knew they could not match his wit, so they went for the kill.

Acts 9:23-25

²³After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him, ²⁴but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. ²⁵But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

Verse 23-25: Saul came to destroy the believers, now the believers had to help him to keep him from being destroyed. It was a frightening experience as Saul's life became in danger. It would be the first of many attempts of the Jews to attempt to murder Saul.

Truly Saul would suffer for the Name of Christ. In his own words, he summed up his lifetime of pain:

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

²³Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. ²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

Verse 23-28: Saul faithfully followed Christ despite the hardships. Although we may not have the same experiences as he did, we also need to obey the Lord no matter what the consequences may be. Believers all over the world serve Christ although it may cost them their lives. Surely we can follow if it cost us an “inconvenience” for we really cannot compare our hardships with theirs.

Up Close and Personal

Thank the Lord that He is merciful enough to repeat His warnings. Ask for His help to respond to His Word today.

What are your thoughts about the response of Ananias to the Lord?

Who is someone you can encourage to follow the Lord?

What are some of the “costs” of following Christ that you have experienced?

DAY 4

The Word

Today's Scripture:

Acts 9:26-27, 13:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Recently, I was able to see friends from college that I had not been around for over five years. It was amazing to see the changes. My one friend who rarely dated, was married and expecting a child. She had become an amazing social worker, though in college her original field dealt with nutrition. Another friend was thriving in the music community of Austin and living his dream of playing music, though he had considered becoming a lawyer. Another lady who had struggled through her undergrad was about to complete the program to receive her PhD. People change and it is amazing to see. Sometimes the changes are accepted by others but not always, especially if the change is radical.

Acts 9:26

²⁶When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

Verse 26: When Saul had left Jerusalem, he was breathing “murderous threats” against the church. Upon his return, he claims to be one of them. Many probably believed it was a trick to discover believers and have them arrested. Out of fear, they stayed away. But there was one man who overcame his fear and overcame Paul's past. This man was named Barnabas.

Acts 9:27

²⁷But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Verse 27: The name Barnabas means Son of Encouragement (Acts 4:36). It was his nickname. His real name was Joseph but they called him Barnabas because he was such an encourager. I hate to wonder what people would nickname me if they based it upon my character. That is a scary thought! But this man was an encourager to the most rejected man in Jerusalem. Saul was not accepted by the devout Jews because of his new belief in Christ, yet he was not accepted by Jesus followers because of his past of persecuting them. Barnabas' encouragement dramatically impacted Saul's life. But at the time, Barnabas did know that his encouragement also impacted history. For here would begin the events which would set Saul up as the greatest missionary this world has ever seen.

Acts 13:1-3

¹In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Verse 1-3: The events of Saul's missionary journeys are chronicled in the book of Acts. He healed people, struck a man with blindness, cast out demons, shared the gospel with countless people, raised a young man to life, and did too much to recount. Not only that, he wrote many letters which make up a large portion of the New Testament. For years he labored faithfully for the work of Christ. We know from church history that Saul was beheaded for his belief in Christ. Read the verses that he wrote in his last letter before his death:

2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Verse 6-8: Saul, who became known as Paul, was faithful to the end. He lived for Christ from the moment that He saw the bright light on the Damascus road until he stood once again in the light of the Lord after his execution. Saul is an example to us of what our lives can be if we surrender our past to the past and live faithfully in the present. How could our lives impact the world around us?

Up Close and Personal

Praise the Lord who changes us.

How have you changed in the past five years? In the past year? In the past six months? In the past week?

How will you let go of your past and live for Christ right now?

What proves that you believe that change in your life is possible?



Today's Scripture: Hebrews 13:3

The Word

As we end this week, I feel compelled to share the truth about the persecuted church. Persecution did not just take place in Saul's day. In fact, more people are killed for their faith today than at any point in history. I found this article from the year 2002:

On June 6, Martin Burnham, an American missionary, died in a battle between his Islamic kidnappers and Filipino troops sent to rescue him. Burnham, thus, becomes the newest member of what the Te Deum, an ancient hymn, calls "the white-robe army of the martyrs" -- an army that, according to a recent estimate, is a staggering 70 million strong.

But what's even more staggering is that, according to the same estimate, 45 million, or two-thirds of all Christian martyrs, died in the twentieth century. These estimates are contained in a new book, *The New Persecuted: Inquiries into Anti-Christian Intolerance in the New Century of Martyrs*. It's written by an Italian journalist, Antonio Socci. The estimates are derived from sources such as Oxford's World Christian Encyclopedia.

Many of the martyrs died in places like the former Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. But there are others, lesser known places where Christians were killed for their faith, like Turkey, where 1.5 million Armenian Christians were murdered.

And the killing continues. Socci estimates that an average of 160,000 Christians have been killed every year since 1990 in places like Algeria, Nigeria, Sudan, and Pakistan.

Socci writes that the "global persecution of Christianity is still in progress but in most cases is ignored by the mass media and Christians in the west."

Colson, Chuck. "A New Century of Martyrs: Anti-Christian Intolerance." Berean Publishers. 2002. 15 October 2007 http://www.bereanpublishers.com/Persecution_of_Christians/a_new_century_of_martyrs.htm>.

My mind cannot grasp 160,000 people. The Bristol Motor Speedway seats 160,000 people I recommend you look up the stadium. Imagine all of those people dead. It was an overwhelmingly gruesome thought when I did it. Yet, I cannot deny the truth. We are busy watching sports and entertainment while ignoring the thousands of people around the world who are being killed for their faith.

Hebrews 13:3

³Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Verse 3: We are called to remember prisoners of the faith as if we ourselves were in prison. We are to recall their sufferings as if we are being mistreated. For years, Western Christians did not even know that believers around the world were being persecuted. One man opened their eyes to the brutal truth.

The man's name was Richard Wurmbrand. He and his wife Sabrina had both been imprisoned and tortured for their faith while living in Communist Romania. Their son who at the time was only nine years old was left orphaned while they were in prison. Years later, Richard and Sabrina escaped to the United States where they were able to share the truth of their tortures. Richard showed the scars from carvings into his skin. They knew people who had died from the persecution. The Wurmbrands went on to found Voice of the Martyrs. I receive a monthly magazine from this ministry that details the arrests, torture, and murder of our brothers and sisters around the world. Sometimes I cannot even look at the pictures because they are so horrific, yet I cannot close my eyes to the truth.

"The Story of Richard and Sabrina Wurmbrand." Voice of the Martyrs. 2003. 15 October 2007
<<http://www.persecution.com/about/index.cfm?action=WurmbrandStory>>

We cannot ignore the persecution any longer. Please look up Voice of the Martyrs on-line and read about the persecuted church. They will send you e-mails about people who are arrested so you can pray for them, write the prisoners, and even write the government officials holding them captive. You can give money to people who are risking their lives to share the gospel in countries closed to Christ. There are other ministries that also support the persecuted church. Get involved. Don't close your eyes to it any longer. We have spent enough of our time and resources on pleasures for ourselves. We cannot forget our persecuted family anymore. We need to share in their sufferings.

Up Close and Personal

Pray for the persecuted church. Ask the Lord how you can remember them and share in their sufferings.

Look up Voice of the Martyrs on-line. Write your thoughts about what you learn here.

How will you remember the persecuted church?

How can you encourage others to join the cause of sharing in the suffering of believers around the world?