

PERSECUTION · NORTH KOREA

Persecution — Perseverance

Standing firm where faith is illegal

VERSE

"You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven."

Matthew 5:11–12

STORY

Watch with your group. Use a short, trusted video on the church in North Korea (Open Doors, Voice of the Martyrs, ICC, or Radical often have clear overviews). Sit with what it would mean to follow Jesus where even owning a Bible can cost everything — then return to the verse, the quote, and the questions below.

MISSIONARY QUOTE

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

— C.T. Studd

PRAISE REPORT

More and more North Koreans have read the Bible and know about Jesus — through radio, smuggled Scripture, defectors, and quiet courage. Praise God for every seed that finds soil, and for every believer who endures.

STUNNING FACTS

- North Korea is routinely ranked among the most hostile places on earth for Christians.
- Christians must hide their faith completely; discovery can mean labor camps, torture, or death — for them and their families.
- The state demands total loyalty; the ruling family is treated with worship-like devotion that leaves no room for another Lord.
- Yet Scripture, radio, and the witness of defectors continue to cross the border.

WHERE

East Asia · borders China,
South Korea, Russia...



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

UNREACHED SNAPSHOT**Korean in North Korea**

Population	about 26.6 million
Christian %	about 1.6%
Climate	state atheism / leader cult
Access	severely restricted
Pray for	gospel openness

Pray North Korea would let more of the gospel in.

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. Jesus calls the persecuted “blessed.” How does that clash with how we usually measure a “good life”?
2. Do you face any real cost for following Jesus? If not, is it possible you are playing it safer than the gospel asks?
3. C.T. Studd said no sacrifice is too great if Christ is God. What sacrifice are you still treating as “too much”?
4. How should believers with religious freedom use it for those who have none — beyond “thinking about them sometimes”?

PRAYER POINTS

- Christians in North Korea — that they would stand strong and not bow to the party.
- Believers in prison — perseverance, and that guards would come to know Christ.
- That the government would have the fear of the Lord.
- That we would stand strong in smaller pressures and be bold where we live.
- That free nations would press for more openness — and that the gospel would keep getting in.

DISCUSS

Answer one thought question as a group. Then pray by name for North Korean believers you will never meet this side of heaven.

ACTION ITEMS

Share the gospel with a stranger this week — use the freedom you still have. Any pushback is fellowship with the persecuted church.

Sources: MessageMissions · Radical · ICC · Open Doors