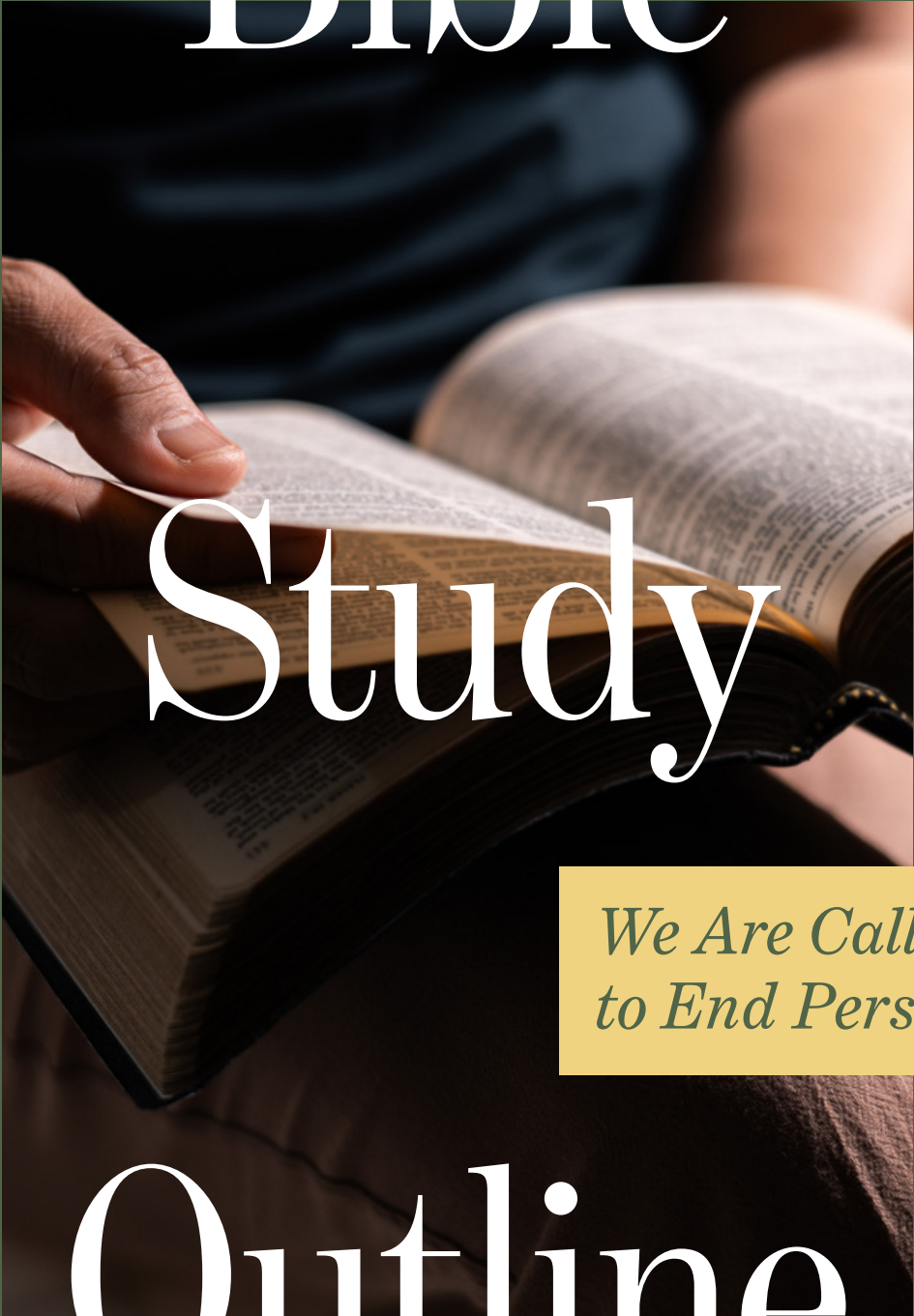




Bible Study Outline

*We Are Called
to End Persecution*



CHRISTIANS AGAINST
ALL PERSECUTION

Church & Small Group Engagement Kit

Understanding Religious Persecution

Understanding persecution is central to the mission of the CAAP Network. Around the world, countless believers face harassment, imprisonment, and even violence because of their faith in Christ. For them, persecution is not an abstract concept but a lived reality. By listening to their stories and amplifying their voices, we recognize persecution is a direct attack on their human dignity and freedom of conscience.

However, Christians are not alone in their persecution. People from other faiths also suffer for their beliefs. Because men and women are image bearers of God, we are called to pray and advocate for all. To understand persecution is to first acknowledge the pain of the global Church and then to commit to stand alongside all those who suffer for their beliefs.

But this understanding calls us to look deeper than statistics or reports—it requires a Biblical and spiritual lens. As part of the body of Christ, when one member suffers, all suffer (1 Corinthians 12:26). Persecution is not just their struggle; it is a collective calling we each must respond to, both with prayer and advocacy, in addition to practical support. By grounding our perspective in scripture, we see persecution as both an injustice and a testimony of faith that strengthens the witness of the Church. And with this, Christ calls us to help our neighbor, regardless of creed or nationality (Luke 10:25–37).

In this way, the CAAP Network seeks to equip believers not only to stand up for our own, but for anyone facing persecution, regardless of beliefs or background. Everyone is deserving of a life free from violence. We can be the example of God's love to a world that is hurting.

Indeed, how can we expect opportunities to witness to unbelievers if we have ignored them in their time of need?

Special note:
This document contains a Bible Study outline meant to condense and compliment the full 4-Day Study Guide.

Access the 4-Day Study Guide here:
caapnetwork.org/bible-study



1. Introduction to Religious Persecution

- **Objective:** Define religious persecution and understand its context in the Bible.
- **Definition:** Violence or mistreatment because of religious beliefs.
- **Key Verse:** "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (2 Timothy 3:12).

2. Biblical Examples of Persecution

- **Objective:** Explore examples of persecution faced by God's people.
- **Old Testament:**
 - Daniel: Refusing to worship the king's image (Daniel 6:8-23).
- **New Testament:**
 - Jesus: Opposition from religious leaders and crucifixion (John 15:18-20).
 - Apostles: Imprisonment and martyrdom (Acts 5:29-42, Acts 7:54-60).
- **Key Verse:** "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10).
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What does persecution mean in a modern context?
 - Have you or someone you know experienced any form of religious persecution?

3. Reasons for Religious Persecution

- **Objective:** Understand why people face religious persecution.
- **Spiritual Opposition:** "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, and spiritual forces of evil." (Ephesians 6:12).
- **Clash of Values:** Followers of Christ often challenge societal norms (John 3:19-20).
- **Historical Context:** Persecutors often target religious communities because they challenge their hold on power.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - Why does living out faith provoke opposition in some contexts?
 - How is the persecution experienced by Christians similar or different than experienced by other faiths?

4. Supporting the Persecuted

“If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it”

1 Corinthians 12:26

- **Objective:** Learn biblical principles for responding to persecution.
- **Faithfulness:** "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10).
- **Pray for Persecuted Christians:** "Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored." (2 Thessalonians 3:1).
- **Pray for Persecuted Non-Christians:** "Seek justice. Defend the oppressed; take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." (Isaiah 1:17).
- **Raise Awareness:** Share stories of persecuted believers.
- **Provide Support:** Engage with organizations that those facing religious persecution.
- **Key Verse:** "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." (1 Corinthians 12:26).
- **Be a Good Samaritan:** "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27).
- **Discussion Question:** How can we practically show love to those suffering for their beliefs, both Christians and others?

