

# Avoiding the Fear of Persecution

## Getting to Know You:

- If you had to choose a type of pain to endure, would you rather face physical, emotional, mental or spiritual pain and why?
- Discuss a painful experience that caused you to grow.

## Going Deeper:

- Discuss this quote from Tertullian. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Why does the church always grow when it's persecuted?
- Discuss how Jesus personally experiencing pain and intimately knowing your pain can aid you in getting through troubling situations. Use Matt. 26:38-39, Isaiah 53:3-8, Hebrews 4:14-15
- Discuss the different ways Satan and God test us according to Rev. 2:10. Satan tests to destroy. God tests to strengthen.
- Compare the different crowns given to believers. 1 Cor. 9:25, 2 Tim. 4:8, James 1:12, 1 Peter 5:4, Rev. 3:11. What's different about each one. How do we gain these crowns?
- Revelation 2:11 mentions the second death. What is meant by this How might we avoid the second death? Use Rev. 2:11, 20:6-14, 21:8
- What does it mean to be an overcomer/victorious according to these verses? What is given to the overcomer after the admonition to each of the 7 churches in Revelation?

## Taking it Home:

- Spend time praying for the persecuted church this week. Pray that they might overcome and endure to the end without denying Christ. Pray for their families. Look up [idop.org](http://idop.org) for family ideas to implement this week.