**Here’s Your Sign**

**Week 2**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1 John 15:19-20 (TPT)**

If you were to give your allegiance to the world, they would love and welcome you as one of their own. But because you won’t align yourself with the values of this world, they will hate you. I have chosen you and taken you out of the world to be mine. So, remember what I taught you, that a servant isn’t superior to his master. And since they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. And if they obey my teachings, they will also obey yours.

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**Day 2: Matthew 5:10-12 (TPT)**

“How enriched you are when persecuted for doing what is right! For then you experience the realm of heaven’s kingdom.How blessed you are when people insult and persecute you and speak all kinds of cruel lies about you because of your love for me!So leap for joy—since your heavenly reward is great. For you are being rejected the same way the prophets were before you.”

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**Day 3:** **2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (TPT)**

But he answered me, “My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds its full expression through your weakness.” So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I’m weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me. So I’m *not defeated* by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I’m surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution *because of my love* for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God’s power.

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**Day 4:** **1 Peter 4:12-14 (TPT)**

Beloved friends, if life gets extremely difficult, with many tests, don’t be bewildered as though something strange were overwhelming you. Instead, continue to rejoice, for you, in a measure, have shared in the sufferings of the Anointed One so that *you can share in* the revelation of his glory and celebrate with *even greater* gladness If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are greatly blessed, because the Spirit of glory and power, who is the Spirit of God, rests upon you.

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**Day 5:** **Mark 10:29-30 (NLT)**

“Listen to my words,” Jesus said. “Anyone who leaves his home behind and chooses me over children, parents, family, and possessions, all for the sake of the gospel, it will come back to him a hundred times as much in this lifetime—homes, family, mothers, brothers, sisters, children, possessions—along with persecutions. And in the age to come, he will inherit eternal life.

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**Discussion Questions**

1. What concerns do you have about the state of the world contrasted to your hope in Christ? What opportunities is God providing? What is God impressing on your heart for *you* to do?

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2. On the video, Pastor Bob said, “Persecution is the act of harassing, oppressing, or killing people because of their difference from society. Christians are persecuted because their belief in Jesus Christ as Savior does not conform to the godlessness of a sinful world.” Give examples of persecution you are aware of in this current time.

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3. Read Matthew 24:9 and Matthew 10:16-17. “If you wear the jersey of Jesus, you are an enemy of the world. If you profess Jesus as Savior and Lord, the world will hate you…simply because you belong to Jesus!” How have you experienced this hatred in your lifetime? What are some choices those who cave under the world’s pressure make and how have you chosen to respond?

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4. Matthew 24:13 in the amplified Bible says, “But the one who endures and bears up [under suffering] to the end will be saved.” The word translated endure is *hypomenõ*. It means “to remain, stay under, stay behind, bear, hold one’s ground. It is remaining steady in the face of adversity rather than fleeing it, persevering in faith despite trials. This is an energetic word, denoting active resistance to defeat with a calm and courageous demeanor—rather than passive resignation or mere patience.” The same word is used in Hebrews 12:2. Read it. How did Jesus endure and how can we?

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5.Where are the fastest growing churches in the world located and where are the churches who are growing the least located? How does persecution affect those numbers and why do you think that is?

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6. 2 Timothy 3:1-4 in The Passion Translation describes those whose love will grow cold in the end times. “But you need to be aware that in the final days the culture of society will become extremely fierce. People will be self-centered lovers of themselves and obsessed with money. They will boast of great things as they strut around in their arrogant pride and mock all that is right. They will ignore their own families. They will be ungrateful and ungodly. They will become addicted to hateful and malicious slander. Slaves to their desires, they will be ferocious, belligerent haters of what is good and right. With brutal treachery, they will act without restraint, bigoted and wrapped in clouds of their conceit. They will find their delight in the pleasures of this world more than the pleasures of the loving God.” Have you witnessed this? How are we to respond to it?

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7. Read Matthew 16:24. Pastor Bob concluded his sermon by saying, “It’s cross now, crown then. Labor now, delivery then. So be patient and endure.” Then he gave us Hebrews 12:2, Jude 1:24 and a few final words of advice. Do you remember what they were?

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