

Small Group  
Leaders •  
**guide**

*A guide for small group leaders to the  
resources on the persecuted church provided  
by International Christian Response*

Dear Small Group Leader,

Thank you for joining the thousands of Christians throughout the world who are praying for our Christian brothers and sisters who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ.

*Please use this guide and the accompanying resources to assist you with your study.*

1. **Persecution Sheet:** Read the definition and note the list of some of the ways believers suffered in the early church. These kinds of persecution are still in practice in many countries today.
2. **Quiz Sheet:** This is your list of statistics about the persecuted church, designed for interactive discussion. Copy one quiz sheet for each member of the group or have the leader read the question out loud. Answers are on the back of the sheet.
3. **Bible Study:** Have someone in the group read (or take turns reading) Acts 12: 1-19.
  - Step 1* Ask the group what the theme was in verses 1 – 4. The answer is Persecution. Ask them to identify the 5 situations of persecution.
  - Step 2* How did the church respond? (Acts 12:5)
  - Step 3* How did Peter respond? (Acts: 12:6)
  - Step 4* God intervenes: discuss the appearance of the angel and what the angel did. (Acts 12:7-8)
  - Step 5* How did Peter respond to the angel? (Acts 12:9-10)
  - Step 6* Describe what happened next and what effect it had on the church. (Acts 12:11-17)
  - Step 7* Talk about the affirmation of God's deliverance. (Acts 12:18-19)
4. **Pray:** On the back of the Persecution Sheet you will find a list of the 10 most important ways to pray for the persecuted church. Remind your group how the church prayed for Peter and his subsequent deliverance.
5. **Infocus Sheets:** Read about persecution today and learn facts about a country.
6. **RESPONSE Magazine:** Share this issue with those in the group and others. To keep informed, contact ICR to subscribe to the quarterly publication.

How will you respond?

[www.christianresponse.org](http://www.christianresponse.org)



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