



## THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

# The People of the King: Facing Opposition While Practising Kingdom Work

Session Number: 14 | Week: 2 | Day: 7

### Bible Passage

Matthew 10:16-42

### Introduction

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends His disciples out for the first time to practice and express the ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing, in what can be considered a short-term experience in ministry (STEM). He warns them of the opposition and persecution they will face on account of Christ. In this session, we will explore the dynamics of persecution for the disciples and how to respond biblically, while remaining steadfast in faith and trusting in God's protection.

### Session Objectives

By the end of this session, you will have:

- Understood the difference between suffering and persecution from the wolves by listing what the wolves would do.

- Identified God's role, the role of the wolves, and the role of the sheep during persecution.

- Learned how to relate to God (their source), how to relate to their God-given resources, and how to relate to the wolves among the sheep.

### Session Outline

- **The short-term experience in the ministry.**
- **Suffering and persecution from the wolves.**
- **How sheep relate to themselves, other sheep, the shepherd, resources, and others.**
- **Dealing with fear, worry, and stress (trauma) before, during, and after persecution.**

### Connecting

- Study together in a group of two or more people.
- Begin with a prayer, asking God to bless your understanding.
- Read the passage at least twice using different Bible versions, then retell the story among your group members.
- Share the challenges and blessings from the previous day.

### Comprehending

What do the verses mean?  
(In small groups, attempt the following questions):

- What is the difference between suffering and persecution (hostility and hatred)? Why are we persecuted? Why does a good husband (Christ) allow His wife (the Church) to be persecuted? Who are the agents of persecution? What should we do when we encounter persecution? Discuss in groups.
- Read Matthew 10:16-42. What is the role of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in the persecution of believers (sheep)?
- Read Matthew 10:16-42. Identify the wolves (from relatives, rulers, religious leaders, and crowds) and their role in the persecution of believers. How do you know that the wolves hate you? List five indicators.
- Read Matthew 10:19, Matthew 10:26, Matthew 10:28, Matthew 10:31. Why did Jesus tell His disciples not to be afraid or worried four times, even before they encountered persecution? What does it mean to be afraid? How do you (as sheep) overcome fear during persecution?
- Read Matthew 10:16-42. List what the persecuted person should do before, during, and after persecution from the wolves.

### Committing

- Engage with the Bible—read, study, memorize, meditate, pray, listen, and live it out.
- List three lessons you learnt as an agent of change that you would practice and teach others about
- Take time and worship Jesus with the attributes revealed about Christ now.
- Engage SPACEPETS model, to do something after the session. Look for:
  - **Sin** to confess
  - **Promise** to claim
  - **Attitude** to change
  - **Command** to keep
  - **Error** to change
  - **Prayer** to make
  - **Example** to copy
  - **Truth** to obey and
  - **Something** praiseworthy

### Communicating

- Identify one person and share the lessons you learnt in this session?
- Visit or call a new believer and Pray with them over the issues they are struggling with. Issue of attending the church.
- Form another group and repeat this study.