

What does it mean to be persecuted?

To be persecuted is to be treated badly, harmed, wounded and sometimes even killed because of what you believe in.



Does the Bible talk about persecution?

Yes it does. Many of Jesus' early disciples who believed in Jesus and followed Him were ill treated by their families, community and even the government.



Given below is one such story from the Bible. Read Acts 12:1-11 (NIV) and fill in the blanks.

It was about this time that King Herod _____ some who belonged to the _____, intending to _____ them. He had _____, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize _____ also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. After _____ him, he put him in _____, handing him over to be _____ by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

So Peter was kept in _____, but the _____ was earnestly _____ to God for him.

The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two _____, bound with _____, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an _____ of the Lord appeared and a _____ shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "_____, _____!" he said, and the chains _____ Peter's wrists.



Then the angel said to him, “_____.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. Peter _____ him _____ of the _____, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a _____. They passed the first and second guards and came to the _____ leading to the city. It _____ for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the _____ has sent his _____ and _____ me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”

1. According to this passage who was the King who was persecuting Christians?
2. Who had he imprisoned intending to bring to public trial?
3. What did the church do when this happened?
4. Who did God send to rescue Peter from prison?
5. Just like in this story , even today many Christians around the world face persecution. What do you think we can do for them?

The Bible urges us to pray for those who are persecuted. Sort out the jumbled words below to see what the Bible says about this.

YOURSELVES THOSE TOGETHER MISTREATED REMEMBER
 IN IF YOU THEM IN PRISON 13:3 AND AS THOSE WHO
 ARE AS IF YOU CONTINUE WITH TO WERE
 PRISON SUFFERING WERE

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 HEBREWS -----

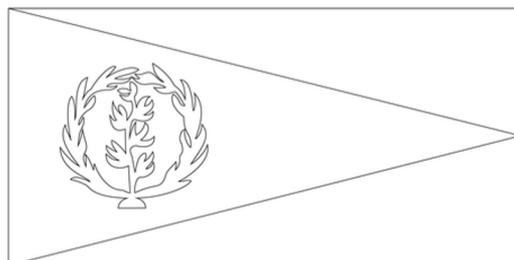
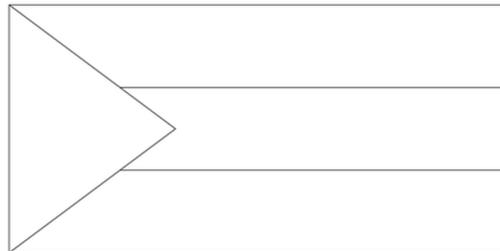
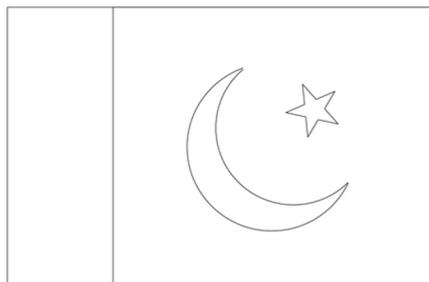
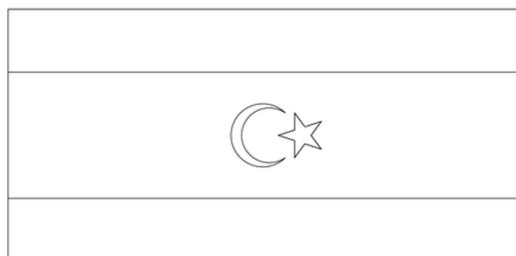
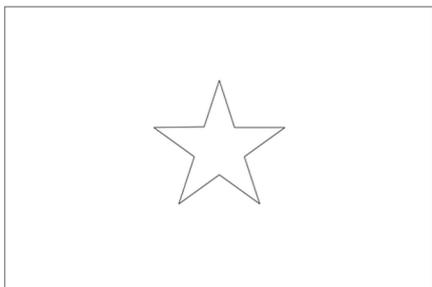
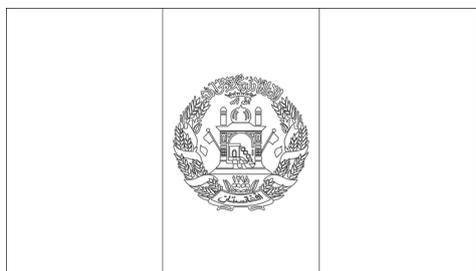
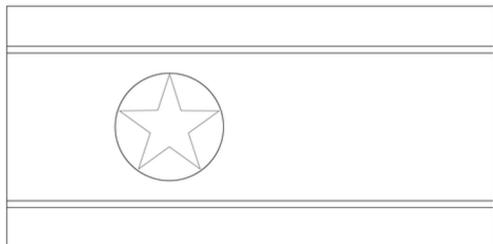
The bookmark below has the flags of the 10 countries where Christians are most severely persecuted around the world. Can you identify what these countries are? One example is already done for you.

Print out the bookmark, color the flags and write which country they belong to.

You can keep the bookmark in your Bible and pray for Christians in these countries every day.

*Paste the 2 sides together

idop PRAYING FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



Yemen

