



TODAY YOUR PRETEEN LEARNED

PATHWAYS TO JOY Pathway of Persecution

Religious persecution still happens. Sometimes, though, it's more subtle and difficult to identify. Today preteens studied Jesus' persecution that led to His death on the Cross. Through watching how Jesus faced these ultimate hardships, preteens can take heart in knowing Jesus will be with them if they face persecution too.

Preteens began to understand more fully what persecution is. Christians should not be surprised if they are persecuted, and they should feel honored to suffer for Jesus. We can find comfort in God's presence and promises when we face persecution for our faith.

We can experience joy even when we suffer persecution because God is with us.



This week, do a little research with your preteen on the persecution of Christians around the world. Pick one country, and pray for the Christians in the country every day this week. Encourage your preteen to look beyond the borders of your country and pray for the members of the Body of Christ all over the world.

PARENT CONNECTIONS

for families of Preteens

PARENT POINTERS

You've heard it before, and you will no doubt hear it again. Perhaps there is good reason why experts, counselors, pastors, and teachers keep telling families to turn off the TV. Maybe you

and/or your family watch many hours of TV.

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with that glass and plastic square thing. You might learn something about black bears on a nature program or have a good laugh during a comedy. But there are many programs that fill you and your family's minds and memories with negative, unkind, and un-Christlike information and behavior.

There is no reason to go into all of the things that are wrong with television and other similar types of entertainment. Instead of contemplating how much negativity you are absorbing by watching TV, think about what it is taking away from you.

One important area that television invades is our precious resource of time. Time that you can never get back again. A moment you could have played basketball with your daughter. A fun family discussion you could have started. A jog with your son, a time to bond with him. A family walk.

Time does not carry a price tag. And you cannot redeem it. Use your time wisely. Television is not the only thing competing for it. Take active steps towards spending more focused time together as a family.

—by Katherine Hendrixson

How beautiful, how grand and liberating this experience is, when people learn to help each other. It is impossible to overemphasize the immense need humans have to be really listened to.

—Paul Tournier

(*The Family That Listens* by H. Norman Wright [Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1978], 71.)



Make up an outdoor family game, and consider playing it with your neighborhood kids. Use a big plastic bat or old broom handle and a big, soft ball or even a huge ball of old newspapers. You can have bases like in baseball, or just have players run around a tree or parked car. You might even have players sing a song or do a hand-

stand or a somersault before they can run home. Make up your own rules as you go along. You might want to write them down so that you don't forget what you have decided. Whatever you do, have fun!