

Week 36

Day 1



Jehovah Rocks:

You are my strength. I can't do it without You. You are so good and You protect me and all who lead me because You are a God who loves. (Psalm 89:17)

See It:

'We are under pressure on every side, but not crushed; confused, but not in despair; treated badly, but not left alone by God; knocked down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be shown in our body.' (2 Corinthians 4:8-10)

On It:

We're spending a week on persecution to help you understand that following Jesus isn't about fun times and a comfortable life. You'll be convinced at the end of this week of readings that persecution is a normal part of following Jesus Christ. But it's better to find that out now rather than when you are in the middle of it wondering why things don't feel so good. Look at Paul in this text. He's pressed down on every side. He's perplexed. He's persecuted. He's struck down. There isn't a big relief mentioned in the reading. However, he does emphasise that he is not crushed, that he is not in despair, that he is not abandoned, that he is not destroyed. So, Christianity is NOT about removing trouble from you but about providing a way through it. This is an important lesson for you.

Live It:

In 1881 The Skeleton Army started. Its only purpose was to persecute The Salvation Army. They mocked us, interrupted our meetings, attacked us, threw rotten vegetables at us, vandalized our property – all because we love Jesus and tried to get lots of other people to love Him, too.

Do It:

Write 'Jesus saves' on some of your school notebooks.



In It:

Thank You that You are stronger than any evil and that You protect me from satan.

Eat It:

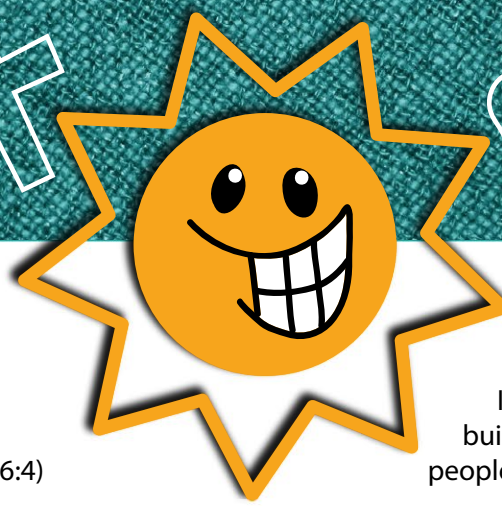
'He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.' (1 Peter 2:24) Memorize this verse this week.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Ezekiel 20-21, Psalm 111, & Revelation 8

Week 36

Day 2



Jehovah Rocks:

I think You are so great that I want there to be at least one person praising You at all times! You should be honoured more than any other god or person. (Psalm 96:4)

See It:

'We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honoured, we are dishonoured! Until now, we are hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are treated terribly, we are homeless. We work hard with our hands. When people curse us, we bless them; when we are treated badly, we put up with it; when we are abused, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the rubbish of the world.' (1 Corinthians 4:10-13)

On It:

'Scum of the earth!' And Paul's talking about himself and fellow apostles! Again, notice the trend. The blessing of God is not a removal of pain from your life. Paul says that he is weak, dishonoured, hungry and thirsty, brutally treated, cursed, persecuted, slandered, scum of the earth, refuse of the world. How does he deal with it? He does the opposite. So, when people curse him, he blesses them! Do you get it? So, if someone calls you a bad name you say something like 'God bless you.' If they swear at you, you can ask God to bless them. When people slander them - that is, lie about them - they speak kindly to them! Wow. This is revolutionary. Did you notice yesterday that Paul just about said he was dead - carrying around in our body the death of Jesus? Well, today, he describes himself as scum and refuse. How do we deal with persecution as Christians? We don't get a free pass to good times. God helps us to respond in the opposite spirit. Bless those who curse you.

Live It:

In the early days of The Salvation Army in Canada, Corps buildings were routinely burned down! And it wasn't because people forgot to blow out candles!

Do It:

Forgive somebody you know has been mean to you lately.

In It:

Please help me to forgive, even people who are really mean to me.



Eat It:

1 Peter 2:24
'He Himself.' Jesus did not pass on the responsibility to die for our sins to someone else. He died for our sins, Himself.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Ezekiel 22-24, & Revelation 9

Week 36

Day 3



Jehovah Rocks:

When You perform another miracle, all of Heaven shouts a loud cheer of praise. You show us your love and loyalty when You help us. Thank You! (Psalm 89:5)

See It:

'You know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, ability to go on, bad treatment, suffering — the kinds of bad things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the things I put up with. But the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be treated badly.' (2 Timothy 3:10-12)

On It:

How would you describe yourself? 10 ½ years old, grade 5, soccer player, chess club, duty monitor? Or, if you are a hardcore Junior Soldier, maybe as a 10 ½-year-old Jesus-loving, demon-shoving, God-glorifying, devil-defying mighty warrior? Paul describes himself here based on his teachings, his purpose, his faith, his love, his PERSECUTIONS, his sufferings... he was known for being persecuted. But he doesn't stop there. He insists that everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. Wow. Really? Everyone? So, does that mean if you want to be a solid Christian, an effective Junior Soldier, you will be persecuted? Yes. What will persecution look like? Well, it could be stuff like people making fun of you because you love Jesus, excluding you from friendship groups or events, or hurting you. But in some places in the world it could mean that you get thrown in jail, that you get fired from jobs (or don't even get hired), that your home is vandalised or taken, or that you get killed. And we're not exaggerating. Is that too much for you? Because this is the cost of following Jesus. But the reward is worth it all!

Live It:

On November 24, 1887, the Battle of the Basilica was fought in Quebec as The Army was attacked by a mob of 5,000 destroying Salvation Army property and bashing soldiers.

Do It:

Write 'Jesus saves' in three different places today.

In It:

Thank You that You give me the privilege to speak to You.



Eat It:

1 Peter 2:24
'Bore our sins in His body on the tree.' Jesus died for us. He bore our sins on His body. All your sins, all my sins, were in some mystical way on His body on the tree – on the Cross. Memorize this verse.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Ezekiel 25-28, & Revelation 10

Week 36

Day 4



Jehovah Rocks:

I love to sing about how wonderful You are and tell You how much I love You. You are my God, and You are worthy of all of the praise! (Psalm 92:1)

See It:

'In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be treated badly. And it turned out that way, as you well know. Therefore, brothers, in all our worry and bad treatment, we were encouraged about you because of your faith. Now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.' (1 Thessalonians 3:4,7-8)

On It:

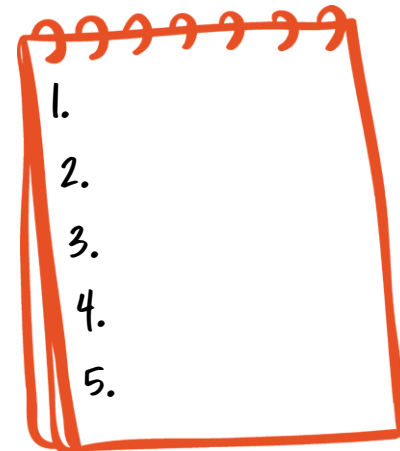
Do you ever guess what is going to happen? Maybe at the end of the movie? Or maybe you pick who will win the game? Well, Paul told the soldiers in Thessalonica that he and his crew would be persecuted. And he was right. But the way that we handle persecution can affect others. If we crumble under the pressure maybe other followers of Jesus will get discouraged and shy away from staying true to Jesus. But if we handle it in a godly way, blessing when cursed, showing kindness when slandered, and so on, then we encourage our fellow followers of Jesus. Paul was psyched to see his friends exercise their faith under persecution. In fact, his life was electric – he was thrilled - because they stood firm in the Lord.

Live It:

In 1887, practically the whole Lindsay Ontario Corps was thrown into prison for preaching the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do It:

Recite five of your memory verses at lunch time today. Make sure they are different to the five you did last time.



In It:

Thank You that You equip me with Your armour. I put it on and know that You will be with me.

Eat It:

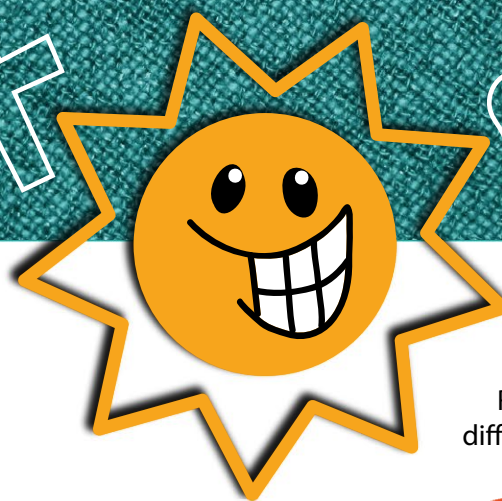
1 Peter 2:24
'So that we might die to sins.' Not only can we have forgiveness for our sins, we can be dead to them. That means we are not inclined to sin anymore. Memorize this verse.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Ezekiel 29-32, & Revelation 11

Week 36

Day 5



Jehovah Rocks:

I love You and I want to tell You everyday, how much I love You. I want to tell people that I meet throughout my day that You are my God who saves! (Psalm 96:2)

See It:

'Some were killed with stones. Others were sawed in two. Some were killed with swords. They wore sheepskins and goatskins, were poor, treated awfully — the world was not worthy of them.' (Hebrews 11:37-38a)

On It:

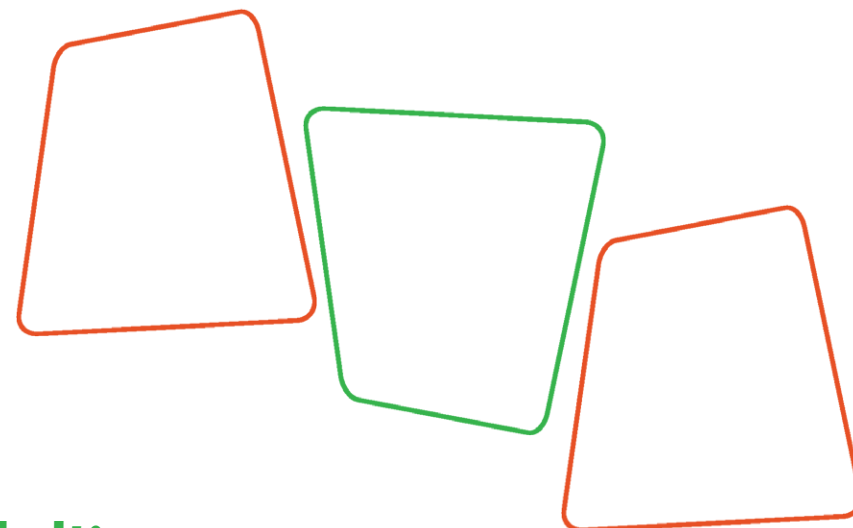
The writer to the Hebrews is finishing a wonderful chapter - 11 - known as the hall of faith. There is a long list of these heroes who used their faith to the glory of God. You will see many familiar names there, like Moses and Abraham and Enoch and Jephthah, and so on. But then the writer figures that there is not enough space to describe all the heroes. He talks about nameless heroes who were stoned to death, sawed in two, chopped to death - persecuted in so many ways. And then there is the conclusion that hits me every time I read it. 'The world was not worthy of them! The world was not worthy of them! They were too good for the world and did not belong there! These heroes were not citizens of earth (we are not to consider ourselves as citizens of this world, either). Their treasures were in Heaven. That means that the important things in their lives had to do with God and eternity. They lived better lives than the earth could inspire or empower. And they died better deaths, as well. They are an example for us. A motivation. What a great caption for your tombstone (if you get one) - the world was not worthy of _____ (put your name there).

Live It:

In England we had women Salvationists killed for preaching the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do It:

Recite three of your doctrines. Make sure they are a different three to the last time you recited them.



In It:

Please keep me close to You, Jesus!

Eat It:

1 Peter 2:24
'Live to righteousness.' Not only do we die to sin, but we live to righteousness. What animates us, what feeds us, what drives and inspires us, is supernaturally powered integrity that can shake the world.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read 2 Kings 25, 2 Chronicles 36, Jeremiah 40-41, & Revelation 12

Week 36

Day 6



Jehovah Rocks:

Praise Yahweh! Forever and ever, praise Yahweh!
(Psalm 89:52)

See It:

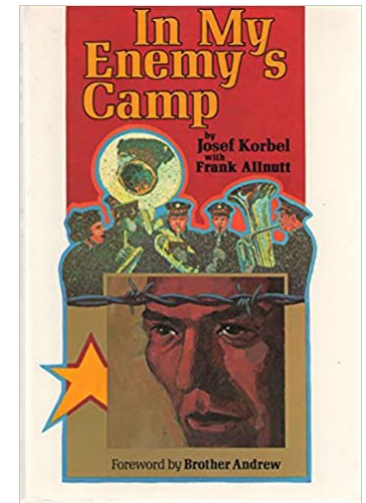
'Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble or hard times or people treating us badly or having no food or nakedness or danger or war? No, in all these things we are more than winners through Jesus who loved us.' (Romans 8:35, 37)

On It:

Have you ever said that you weren't friends with someone because of peer pressure? Have you ever been bullied into dissing The Salvation Army or even Jesus? This is the very issue Paul is addressing. He's basically asking - what would it take to make me let go of Jesus' love? He throws out a few possibilities. What about trouble? I mean, trouble is a hassle. Often when you stand up for Jesus you get in trouble (whether you get a knife to your throat, or just get kicked out of malls for preaching like we have). Well, how about hardship? I mean, if you got kicked out of school for following Jesus, or disowned by your family? Or maybe if you couldn't buy food to eat because you are a Christian? Well, maybe persecution? It could be that you get beaten for Jesus? Famine? Nakedness? Danger? Sword? Wow. There are a lot of possibilities to be separated from Jesus' love there. And many people have thrown in the towel in the face of some of those very difficult circumstances. But how does Paul conclude? He says NO. NO NO NO NO NO. NO to all those things. How? Well, in all those situations we can be MORE THAN CONQUERORS through Jesus who loves us. Jesus empowers us. His grace is sufficient for us. Nothing will separate us from Jesus!

Live It:

Brigadier Josef Korbel was arrested by Communists in Czechoslovakia and imprisoned for more than a decade for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as a Salvation Army Officer. You can read his autobiography, *In My Enemy's Camp*.



Do It:

Tell some kids at school today about Jesus.

In It:

Thank You that nothing can separate me from Your love!

Eat It:

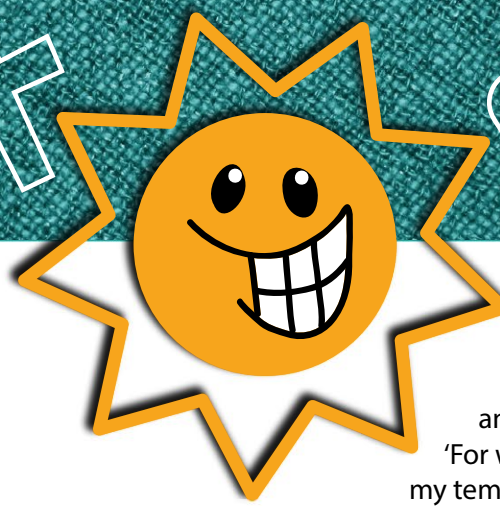
1 Peter 2:24
'By His wounds you have been healed.' Because Jesus was crucified for us, His wounds provide a way for us to be healed, to be saved. Hallelujahweh!

Read it

One-year Bible Plan: Read Jeremiah 42-44, Psalm 48, & Revelation 13

Week 36

Day 7



Jehovah Rocks:

I want to praise You everyday for the rest of my life on earth, and in Heaven. (Psalm 44:8)

See It:

'Dear friends, do not be surprised at your painful suffering, as if something strange were happening to you. Be happy that you're a part in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be so happy when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.' (1 Peter 4:12-14,16)

On It:

Okay, if you know that persecution is coming, the best approach is to plan to handle it in the right way. Peter, who himself was terribly persecuted, gives us some hints. First, do not be surprised, as if this was such a surprise to be made fun of. We are expecting persecution so let's not let it shock or confuse us when it does happen. Second, rejoice. In suffering? Why rejoice? Well, then we can be overjoyed when God is shown to others through us. Third, know that you are blessed. When we are insulted along with Jesus, Holy Spirit actually comes on us to take the blows, and so God rests on us. Fourth, don't be ashamed. Jesus is worthy of the sacrifice of all our lives. It is a privilege to suffer for His name. Fifth, praise God. Let's just keep reflecting glory to God! Hallelujahweh!

Live It:

Commissioner Herbert Lord was a prisoner in the 1950s for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Korea. His guard was questioning him: 'And do you believe that... God answers prayer?' 'Yes.' 'Well, we'll prove it. I am going to stand behind you, and I want you to pray to your God and ask Him to tell you in which hand I am holding this gun.' 'I refuse to offer

such a prayer,' declared the Commissioner. 'God is not a conjuror.' The guard said, 'And yet you believe He answers prayer?' And he replied, 'Yes, and I am praying now.' 'For what?' said the guard. 'That He will give me grace not to lose my temper with you, and that if you decide to use your gun that I may die like a Christian gentleman.' The guard walked away.

Do It:

Can you memorize the first 30 books of the Old Testament?

In It:

Help me to rejoice in You, even when I am feeling sad.



Eat It:

'He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.' (1 Peter 2:24)

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Lamentations 1-2, Obadiah, & Revelation 14