



Lesson 11

August 15, 2021

# Keep Going

Hebrews 10:23-36

Today's Bible lesson will help us explore the stories of early believers who suffered for the sake of their faith. In today's contemporary scenario, Willie prays for the courage of Christians around the world who endure suffering brought about by their faithful witness.

Willie returned from a mission trip just before the pandemic began last year. He saw first-hand how Christians were not allowed to freely express their faith. Willie knew persecution was taking place; however, he had no idea that the persecution was at the level that it was. The group traveled to South Sudan. Upon arrival, the missionary group was informed that South Sudan was one of the top ten countries where the most Christians are killed, according to research about Christian persecution.

Willie was a part of the group that reported on their trip to the mission societies of the churches in their convention via video conferencing last year. Willie informed the participants that his missionary group encouraged the Sudanese to persevere by holding fast to the promises of God that keep us going.

Willie encouraged participants in the video meeting to pray for their Christian brothers and sisters who are being persecuted and understand what they are going through. Willie also talked about the reality of persecution, even in our own country. Since the pandemic, some Americans of a certain ethnic group have been targeted, violently attacked, and killed because some blame this group for the global virus. Willie and other missionaries asked the participants to intercede in prayer for the safety of everyone and the end of suffering.

Willie and the missionary members also encouraged participants to meet regularly. As believers, there is something about coming together and encouraging one another. When regular meetings are deserted, it violates the command of the Scriptures.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Do you find it hard at times to persevere during persecution? Explain.
2. Discuss ways that fellow believers can encourage each other.
3. Discuss ways you can share in the suffering of Christians around the world and those who are attacked because of their racial, cultural, or religious identification in America.