



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION FAMILY, CLASSES AND GROUPS

Visit vom.org.nz/idop or download the free VOM App to watch the short feature film *Sejun: Nepal*.

When you think about persecuted Christians, do you picture the faces of children? Why or why not? Why might the reality that our littlest Christian brothers and sisters also face persecution unsettle you?

Those who persecute Christians are especially opposed to the evangelism and discipleship of children, even the children of Christian parents.

Why do you think persecutors are so opposed to the discipleship of children?

When you see Buddhism portrayed in today's media, what message is often communicated? Why do you think this message is broadcast?

While Buddhism is more than 2,500 years old, the teachings of Buddhism have become more prominent globally in the last 50 years. It is perceived to be a peaceful religion, but it is spiritual darkness.

In places like Nepal, Buddhism openly reveals itself as the blackest darkness since Buddhists work to appease spirits whom they know to be evil.

Buddhists also perpetrate persecution of Christians in their communities. Young adults who come to faith in Christ are driven from their homes. All this is done explicitly to appease and court favor with evil spirits we know to be demons — the fallen angels, who like their master, work only to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

How does the above information about Buddhism compare to the message that our culture receives about Buddhism?

The Source of Light

READ JOHN 8:12.

How does Jesus describe himself?

What is Jesus' promise for those who follow him?

How does the blessing of "not walking in darkness" show up in your life daily as a biblical disciple?

What do you think Jesus means by the phrase "will have the light of life"?

How do your children, grandchildren or the children in your church effectively share Christ, the source of light, with those around them? How can you work with them to share Christ with others?



The Force of Light

READ JOHN 1:1-5, 9.

Who is the “Word” introduced in verse 1?

Darkness is a metaphor for evil. In what darkness is this light shining?

Who is the “true light” in verse 9?

How does knowing that darkness has not overcome the light (Jesus Christ) encourage you?

How did the light of Christ overcome the darkness in Sejun’s experience? How did Sejun find the light of Christ?

Who do you know that is experiencing a season of darkness? What could you say that might encourage them to continue trusting in God? How could the passage in John 1 help you encourage them?

The Course of Light

READ EPHESIANS 5:8; PHILIPPIANS 2:14-15.

Before finding the light of Christ, each of us was lost in sin (darkness). What do you remember about the darkness in which you once walked? How did it feel? What were your thoughts then?

Think of someone you know who is not yet a Christian. Do you think they might feel the same way that you felt before you trusted Christ? When you “walk as children of the light,” what can you do to shine the light of Christ so that this person may also find Christ?

What does Paul write in Philippians 2:14–15 that might help you shine as lights in the world?

God has set biblical disciples on the course of shining as lights in the world. What is one specific light-shining action that God is asking you to pursue this week?

Prayer Focus

- » Pray that our littlest persecuted Christian brothers and sisters will boldly shine the light of Christ.
- » Pray that the bold witness of our persecuted Christian family will penetrate the darkness of those trapped in Buddhism (more than 500 million globally).
- » Pray that you will be inspired to boldly shine as a light for Christ in the spiritual darkness near you.