



I Came to Bring Fire to the Earth...

February 27 Luke 12:49-53

Object Lessons and Storytelling Ideas

- Research stories about the persecuted church to share using websites like [Open Doors](#), or [Voice of the Martyrs](#).
- Tell the story of someone who had to leave their family to follow Jesus - somebody in your church or from across the world.
- Talk about the world's definition of peace versus God's definition of peace - peace doesn't mean that you always agree with people.
- What did Jesus mean by a baptism of suffering? How does baptism in our church relate to this?
- Talk about how persecution and hardship can make our faith stronger.

Discussion Ideas and Questions

- How does following Jesus divide people?
- Jesus knew that following him would mean a difficult life with difficult relationships for some people, even today. Are there ways that following Jesus makes life harder in Canada? How can we use these things to get closer to Jesus?
- Have you ever argued with someone? A w or a friend? How did that feel to be at odds with someone important to you? Did you know that Jesus promised that there would be times that we would disagree with those around us, especially when we want to follow Jesus and others don't or think that following Jesus looks different than we do?

At Home Connections

- Add one country or person where following Jesus means being persecuted to the prayer list you created last week.
- How can your family reach out to Christians for whom following Jesus is hard or lonely?