



## Let's Dig In:

In **verses 9 and 10**, James contrasts the dispersed Jewish–Christians who were poor with ones who either used to be or perhaps were still wealthy. He says just as the poor should boast in their spiritual “riches,” the rich should boast in their spiritual “humiliation.”

- What could possibly cause poor Christians to think of themselves as rich?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What could possibly cause Christians who have suffered the humiliation of losing their wealth and becoming poor to boast and rejoice?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What do you think the reactions of James' readers might have been?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What might your reaction have been?

## Read 1 Corinthians 4:11-13

- In the eyes of the world, how was the Apostle Paul perceived because he was a Christian?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Have you ever experienced a situation where “in the eyes of the world,” your Christian beliefs put you at odds with friends, co-workers, or family?

**Read 1 Peter 1:3-6, 1 John 3:1-3 and Romans 8:16-18**

- In your own words, what is the reoccurring theme of these three passages?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Do you think the average American Christian can relate to the reality of what Peter, John, and Paul are describing? Why or why not?

**Read James 1:11 and 1 Peter 1:24**

What passage in the Old Testament are both James and Peter quoting?

**Let's Live It Out:**

**During the week use the Internet to go to: [opendoorsusa.org](http://opendoorsusa.org)**

1. Click on **“World Watch List”** in the options at the top of their homepage.
2. Click on **“Watch the video.”**
3. **Watch this 3 minute video and answer the questions below:**

- How many Christians live in areas of high persecution?
  
  
  
  
- This number is equivalent to \_\_\_\_\_ of every \_\_\_\_\_ Christians worldwide.
  
  
  
  
- Sometimes, when the church is being squeezed, it \_\_\_\_\_.

*At the close of your group time, share your response to the question below:*

**Can you think of ways that your LifeGroup could stand with persecuted Christians today?**

*Pray for one another and consider praying for persecuted Christians worldwide.*