

SHARE LIKE A **NORTH KOREAN**

Experience life in North Korea: Imagine, Pray, Act



SMALL GROUP INSPIRATIONAL GUIDE **ISSUE SIX**



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

"To crush underfoot all prisoners in the land, to deny people their rights before the Most High, to deprive them of justice – would not the Lord see such things?" – Lamentations 3:34-36

IMAGINE A LAND...

Where between 50 000 and 70 000 Christians are held in labour camps and where everyone is told that Christians are 'bad people'. But where, despite the restrictions, Christians find ways to tell people about Jesus and where, despite the cost, people respond to that call. Where those who become Christians make the choice knowing that they could pay with their lives. And yet still they make that choice and pay that price.

This is sharing the Good News in North Korea.

(For more info on this series see p. 4)



PREPARE THINK TALK



You will need:

- Paper and pen. Write out the list of prohibited words in the box below. Make sure that everyone has a copy.

Read: Mark 8:34–9:1

"Take up your cross..."

- In North Korea certain words are so dangerous that Christians have to use a kind of code to communicate. So, agree before the meeting starts that there are certain words that can't be used. Instead, use the substitutions in the chart below:

List of prohibited words	
Do NOT use:	Use INSTEAD
Jesus	The One
God	Our Father
Bible/scripture/Word of God	The book
Church	Family
Prayer	Talking to Father

- What does it mean to 'take up your cross'? What price are we prepared to pay to follow Jesus? What can we learn from North Korean Christians?
- How would you share the Gospel using the code words? Is it even possible?
- The North Korean Church has a vision for what God intends for their future. Do you have a vision for how you will share the Gospel as a church, group or as an individual?



IMAGINE

The word disciple means 'apprentice' or 'trainee'. Imagine that you are drawing up a job description for a 'trainee follower of Jesus'. What would it contain?

PRAY

- Look at the job descriptions you have drawn up. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to do those tasks this month.
- Pray for the Church in North Korea and their vision for the future.
- Prayerfully reflect on the cost of being a disciple of Jesus.

ACT

As individuals: Choose which of the actions you will do this month (see p. 4).

As a group: Share what you've learned about discipleship from North Korean Christians. Can you share this with your church? Your workplace? Your friends or family.

With Open Doors: Every R280 can help keep 1 believer in North Korea alive with emergency aid and spiritual support. Go to www.opendoors.org.za/giftnk



In Preparation

North Korean Christians have started their own prayer campaign for their country. They pray that God continues to open doors for the Gospel to be spread further.

"We now pray the prayer of Queen Esther. She was called 'for a time like this,' as Mordecai told her. That applies to us, too. We are called to spread His light in a time like this and under these difficult circumstances. We experience that God uses the persecution to sanctify His Church and are grateful that we in our weakness receive His strength. We pray that we are able to do His will in every situation. And if we perish, we perish. "God gave us a vision. One day our country will be opened and reunited with South Korea. Then the North Korean and South Korean Church will work together with our Chinese brothers and sisters to evangelise Asia. That is going to be a hard, difficult task. We see the current persecution in North Korea as preparation for that time."

ACTION

Which of these will you do?

- **Identify yourself as a Christian.**

Wear something this month which identifies you as a Christian – because throughout the world there are millions of Christians who can't identify as Christian like those in North Korea.

- **Rise and shine.**

Get up early (maybe even in the dark) and leave your house. Maybe meet with another believer. Stand in silence. Whisper a Bible verse. Pray silently. Then move on.



The lives of North Koreans are constantly scrutinised. Every Saturday, citizens attend their local Kim Il-Sung research centre where they study the teachings of the great leaders and take part in 'criticism' sessions to address the ways they have failed the state. Every citizen is also part of the *Inminban* – a kind of neighbourhood watch system. Every North Korean person is a member of the *Inminban* system. The leaders of these *Inminban* groups write reports on their neighbours: Have their members had visitors? Been away from home for any reason? Are the portraits of the leaders kept clean?

For Christians – who believe that there is a higher authority than the nation's leaders – life is perilous. *"I was afraid, every day, for my life,"* said one. This is one reason why Christian parents don't often tell their children about their faith. Children might let something slip, sing a song, say a prayer, which could result in their entire family disappearing, them being executed or more likely sent to labour camps.

While living under such conditions, North Korean Christians and citizens alike need much prayer...

In this resource you will find readings and prayers to help

you pray with the underground Church in North Korea. The stories you will read show the hardship, pain and suffering of North Korean believers, but also their joy, courage and faith – because, amazingly, despite the secrecy and pressure and fear, the Church is growing!

But what makes this resource different is that it also challenges **you** to live like a North Korean. These actions can't replicate the reality, but the Bible readings, prayers and actions can, with prayerful reflection, provide a window into the world of North Korean Christians.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This will be our final Small Group Inspirational Guide that will be printed and sent out. This is part of our effort to continue to be good stewards of the finances God entrusts to us and better serve the persecuted Church together. Previous guides will be available on our website.

Thank you so much for your support over the years. Visit www.opendoors.org.za to sign up for other Open Doors' publications or to find out more about our *Standing Strong Through the Storm* course that is hosted across the country.



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