

HEART CONNEX

Truth Flowing from One Generation to the Next— Through Strong Heart Connections

STUDENTS PAGE

October 21-24, 2009

Joy Despite Persecution—Richard Ross, Ph.D.

1. Heart Surprise (Today a parent goes first): When it's your turn, say: **Thanks for seeing good things in me. When you build me up, it makes me feel . . .**

Something from the *Heart Surprise* I want to remember:

2. Read Scripture: Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Timothy 3:12

Truth

- My faith in Christ brings me peace and joy even when I am persecuted.

Untruths

- It's better to fit my beliefs to what's going on around me than to be persecuted.
- Unless they can make me feel happy, there's really no point in religious beliefs.
- Persecution means I must be doing something wrong.

3. Explore Scripture: Write what you want to remember about the Scriptures.

4. Think It Through: Read each statement below and encourage family members to share which situation they think is the worse form of persecution. Discuss their responses.

- *A father missing out on a promotion at work because his boss thinks Christians are weak or a teenage boy losing an election to a school office because the student body thinks Christians are losers.*
- *A mother being ignored at her high school reunion by classmates who still think she's weird or a teenage girl not making cheerleader because the coach does not think she can fit in with the "fun" girls on the squad.*

5. Nail It Down: A parent will lead this step.

6. Pray: Kneel in the center of the room with your hands behind your back as if tied. Pray: **Lord, if I am ever captured by evil people who say, "Curse Jesus or die," I ask for the peace and courage to stay true to You even if it costs me my life.**

7. Blessing: Listen as your parent blesses the family.

Teen Tip: Go to your parent and say: **Some day, I'll have to leave this family for one reason or another. It might involve going to school, taking a new job, or pursuing a call to missions. Whatever the reason, when that day comes, I want you to remember you're important to me because . . .**