



CONVERSATION GUIDE: TALKING WITH CHRISTIAN CHILDREN ABOUT PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION:

The primary environment for discipleship of children to occur is within the family (Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4). Children are capable of participating in age-appropriate conversations about spiritual principles. This guide demonstrates how leaders within a family unit can engage both older and younger children in foundational conversations about fellowship within the global body of Christ and about the opposition that our Christian brothers and sisters face. Children as young as four or five years old can have beginning conversations that plant the seeds of God’s truth in their hearts and minds and build upon that foundational truth with more in-depth conversations and Scripture reading.

CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

EDGAR AND ISABELLA

Edgar and Isabella lead a church in Buenaventura, considered to be the most dangerous city in Colombia.

The couple ministers by caring for the needs of the community as they tell others about Jesus, which has drawn negative attention from the terrorists who control the area.

Through Edgar and Isabella’s ministry, many have placed their faith in Christ, and lives have been transformed, which has brought further opposition.

Their lives have been threatened, and they have been forced to move several times, but they remain committed to sharing the hope of Christ. Earlier this year, Isabella was held at gunpoint by a terrorist commander while Edgar was trapped and unable to help her. Though the terrorist was initially arrested, officials released him. He has threatened Isabella again, and she and her children have not been able to leave their house since his release. She and the children have also suffered significant chronic health issues.





Christians who live in other places around the world, like Edgar, Isabella and their children, are our family members because we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

“You are members of God’s family” (Ephesians 2:19). As Christians, both those who live in another country and those who live with us in our country are members of God’s family. We are brothers and sisters with people we haven’t even met yet!

- What do you think might be different about Edgar and Isabella's lives as they live in Colombia compared to your family? (The type of house they live in, the weather, the food they eat, the activities they may do)
- What type of things do you think Edgar and Isabella and their children do that are the same as what you do, even though they live in Colombia? (Parents love their children, children have friends and play with them, they shop for clothing, they eat meals together)
- What would a Christian from another country do to grow in their relationship with the Lord? How is this the same as how you grow in your relationship with the Lord? (Read the Bible, pray, tell others about Jesus, obey God, worship)

Our Christian brothers and sisters love God with all their hearts.

- What does the Bible tell those of us who love God with all our heart to do? (Read John 14:15.)
- What is a *commandment*?
- Read Matthew 28:18–20. Is this passage one of Jesus’ commandments to us? What does it instruct us to do?
- In Edgar and Isabella's story, how did they keep Jesus’ commandments?



As we hear stories about our Christian brothers and sisters, God tells us to care for them and pray for them.

- How does it make you feel when you know other people pray for you?
- Do you pray for those you love and care about? How do you pray for them?
- What did you hear in Edgar and Isabella's story that you want to pray about? Let's pray for them right now.



ADDITIONAL CONVERSATION GUIDE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

KAEW

Kaew, who lives in Laos, placed her trust in Christ through the prayers of her parents, who became Christians after she was married.

Her husband and his parents, as well as their village, opposed her decision to follow Christ and repeatedly tried to make her *recant* (deny her belief in Jesus and stop following him).

Kaew's husband and other villagers threatened and beat her until she passed out. When she regained consciousness, she was given one more chance to recant, but she insisted on following Christ. In anger, her husband threw her out of their house.

Heartbroken, she took their 7-year-old son and returned to her parents' home with very little besides the clothes they wore. Kaew's husband has since divorced her. Because her parents are also suffering persecution for their faith, including destruction of their crops and damage to their property, they are struggling to support Kaew and her son. Christians in many places have helped provide emergency assistance as Kaew and her family rebuild their lives.



Our Christian brothers and sisters live boldly for Christ.

- What did it mean for Kaew and her parents to live boldly for Christ?
- Can those around you tell if you are living boldly for Christ?
- What are some things you do that show others how you live boldly for Christ?
(Read the Bible, tell other people about Jesus, worship God regularly, obey Christ)



Even when our brothers and sisters face opposition, they serve Christ.

- What does *opposition* mean? How do you know if someone is your opponent?
- What was the opposition that Kaew faced?
- Why do you think people might oppose the bold witness of our Christian brothers and sisters?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:12. What does the Apostle Paul say will happen when Christians live godly lives?
- Do you think Kaew was surprised when she faced persecution after refusing to deny her faith in Christ? Why or why not?
- When people oppose Christians, should Christians be surprised? Why or why not?



Sometimes bad things happen to our Christian brothers and sisters because they live for Christ. This is called *persecution*.

- Persecution may take many different forms. Christians are told to stop worshiping God. They lose their jobs or are not able to get a good job. They are kicked out of the place they live. Their Bibles are taken away and destroyed. They are beaten or arrested.
- What persecution did Kaew face?
- As you think about persecution happening to Kaew and our other Christian brothers and sisters, how does that make you feel? Why?

Our Christian family members continue to live for Christ even when they are persecuted.

- Do you think Kaew might have been tempted to recant her faith in Christ? Why or why not?
- Have you been in a situation where you faced something so hard that you wanted to give up?
- If you didn't give up, where did you get the strength to continue?
- *Endurance* is being able to survive a hard problem or situation. How would you explain endurance to a friend?
- Our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters endure persecution so they can live godly lives and tell other people about Jesus.

We can be inspired by our brothers and sisters' example to live for Christ.

- Who are role models in your life that you look up to? What about this person inspires you?
- What parts of Kaew's story inspire you?