

**discussion guide for**

# **Foxe's Book of Martyrs**

## **KEY SCRIPTURES:**

### **1 Peter 4:12-16**

*Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing is happening to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.*

### **John 16:33**

*In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

### **Romans 1:16**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. . . .*

**Particularly in Western Christianity, the concepts of tribulation, persecution, and suffering are not very popular; these are not "refrigerator magnet" Bible verses, and a lot of the modern church (notably American Christianity) prefers "comfortable Christianity" where Jesus works all your problems out and makes your life easy.**

**How is this misconception of Christianity at odds with Scripture?**

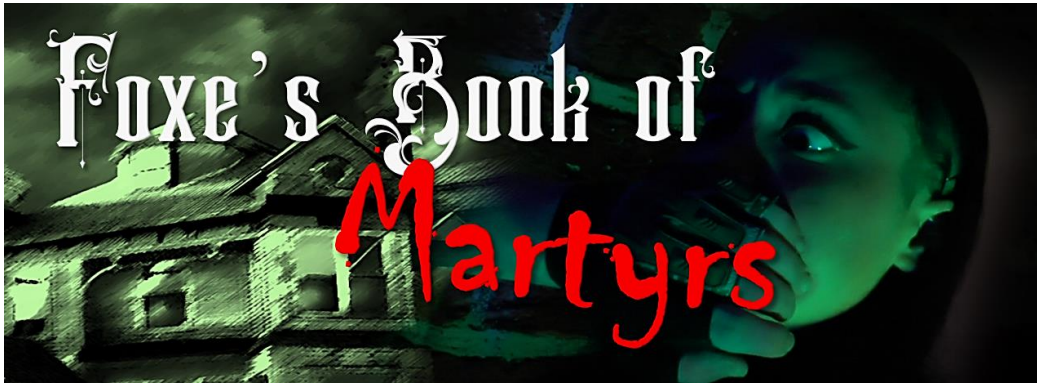


**What do you think is the purpose of tribulation? As Abby Kirk puts it in the film, how can persecution “make the church grow stronger”?**

**Discuss a time when you experienced hardship or difficulty. What did you learn from the experience? How did the situation grow you? Your faith? Did the experience draw you closer to God? Did it push you *away* from God? Why?**

**We tend to think “if I’m doing everything right, then I shouldn’t have any problems in my life”. How do the heroes of the faith, in the Bible as well as Foxe’s Book of Martyrs, contradict this outlook?**

**“Why does God allow bad things to happen?” This is a common question and one that keeps many people from having a personal relationship with Him. Discuss this question, keeping in mind that Jesus Himself, when He was on the earth, experienced unspeakable hardship and suffering. How does sin and living in a sinful world factor into it? What about the power of choice that God created us with? Why do you think God gave us the power to make good, or bad, decisions?**



**The film is not just a fictional recreation of Foxe's Book of Martyrs, but also an allegory of the church, persecution, and the supernatural battle as described in Ephesians 6.**

**Discuss Abby Kirk. How does she personify the body of Christ, past and present?**

**Discuss young Victoria. How does she personify the next generation of believers?**

**Concerning the Scythian Goths, as well as the fictional character of Scythia, who is symbolically a modern day "Goth girl" (yes, we know that Visigoths and the modern Goth movement are two different things; the film is merely a play on words), Victoria narrates that "those who are the most wayward sometimes have an easier time accepting the Truth." What do you think this means? (Matthew 11:25)**

**Discuss some of the martyrs depicted in the film. Which one stands out to you the most? Do you see any modern parallels with issues that we are facing today in our culture?**

**Discuss the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:14-18). If you are a believer, how do you think you are fulfilling the Great Commission in your own life? What are the ways we can "go into all the world and preach the Gospel"? Why do you think Jesus commanded us to do this? What is the purpose of evangelism?**