



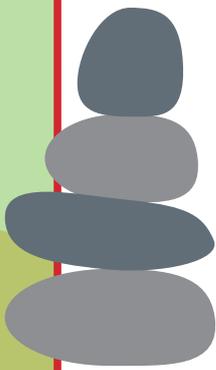
CHILDREN'S PRAYER DEVOTIONAL

Part 4: Praying for the Persecuted Church





Week 24: #9 Nigeria



Rock hunting and building

Go outside and find as many rocks as you can. Next, build a tower with them and see who in your family can create the tallest rock tower.

This week we are travelling to Nigeria in western Africa. Sometimes referred to as “The Giant of Africa”, Nigeria has more than 200 million people, making it the country with the most people in Africa. Nigeria is also known for its gigantic rocks, like this one called the Zuma rock. It is 725 metres tall!



This country is approximately half Muslim and half Christian. The north of Nigeria is mostly Muslim, while the south is mostly Christian. Even though there is a high percentage of Christians, persecution is still very high, and Nigeria is the country where the most Christians are killed for their faith. Persecution normally happens in the north and central parts, but now these extremist groups are moving south and also attacking there.



For many Christians, going to meet together as a church requires great courage because many church buildings have been destroyed. Boys are at risk of being killed, and girls are at risk of being forcefully married to a Muslim in order to try and stop them from being Christian.

READ THEIR STORY:

Hello, my name is Abebi, and I am nine years old. Two years ago, the Islamic Fulani Militants (an extremist group) came to our village and killed my father and brothers along with many others in our village. I survived because my dad told my mother and I to run and hide. That day they burnt down our church building and most of

our houses. We had to leave with nothing in our hands. I miss them so much. I try to forget what I saw that day. It is so sad and still hurts to remember. I was so afraid then, and sometimes I am scared they will come back and attack us again. We have now moved to the south of Nigeria, where there are more Christians and less attacks. Here we have met other people who, like us, have lost family members for being Christians. We read the Bible together and worship God. Please pray that God will protect us, and that we will not be afraid.

Creative prayer:

Choose one of the rocks you collected at the beginning and write "Nigeria" on it, using paint or a marker. Put it in your room and pray for Christians in Nigeria every time you see it. Read Psalm 34:18 as a family and pray that believers in Nigeria would feel God close to them, giving them comfort.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted. He saves those whose spirits have been crushed." -- Psalm 34: 18 (ICB)

Prayer points:

- Pray for comfort for the believers who have lost family members and are constantly afraid.
- Pray for protection for boys and girls who are at risk of being killed or forced into marriage.
- Pray for courage for Christians to meet together.
- Pray that those in the extremist groups will come to know and follow Jesus.

PRAY:

Dear Father, thank You that I can pray to You at any time and that You listen. I pray for the Christians in Nigeria. I know You love them. Please keep them safe so that they will be able to worship You freely. It is so sad to know that there are children who are constantly in fear. I pray that they will not be afraid, but that they will know that You are with them. Please give them the courage and protection to meet together and help them to forgive those who have hurt them. Amen.

