

DISCUSSION GUIDE for Parts 5, 6 and 7 of Pilgrim's Progress (youtube)

1. Beelzebub has started Vanity Fair where pilgrims have to pass through. It offers empty pleasures and foolish goods from around the world. Compare this to Jesus' statement that His followers are in the world, but are "not of the world" (John 17:15-16).
2. Think of all the things you own and the kinds of things you spend your money on. Which are really important to you? How much of what you have is really rather worthless and foolish, like the merchandise at Vanity Fair? Name some specific things that attract you and your friends, and can distract you from more important activities. How often do you say, "We buy only the truth" like Christian and Faithful do?
3. Christian and Faithful do not fit in at Vanity Fair, and the crowds are quick to spot them. Have you ever felt out of place because you are a Christian? Where? If so, in what ways are you different? Do you think it is normal for Christians to feel "different" from the rest of the world?
4. Christian and Faithful are laughed at, arrested, and locked up because they follow God's way. Faith is even tried in court and killed because of his faith. Have you heard of places where Christians are sometimes arrested or killed for their beliefs today? If this could happen to you, would you still be a Christian? How do you think it would change the way you live and worship?
5. How do Christian and Faithful respond to the cruel treatment they receive at Vanity? What effect does their attitude during their suffering have on Hopeful?
6. Which parts of the Armor of God can help you be victorious in situations like those Christian and Faithful find themselves?
7. What surprises you about the outcome of this episode in *Pilgrim's Progress*? Do you feel encouraged or discouraged by what you see? Explain.