

Day of the  
Christian  
Martyr  
2026

## QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, GROUP AND CLASS DISCUSSION

### DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

---

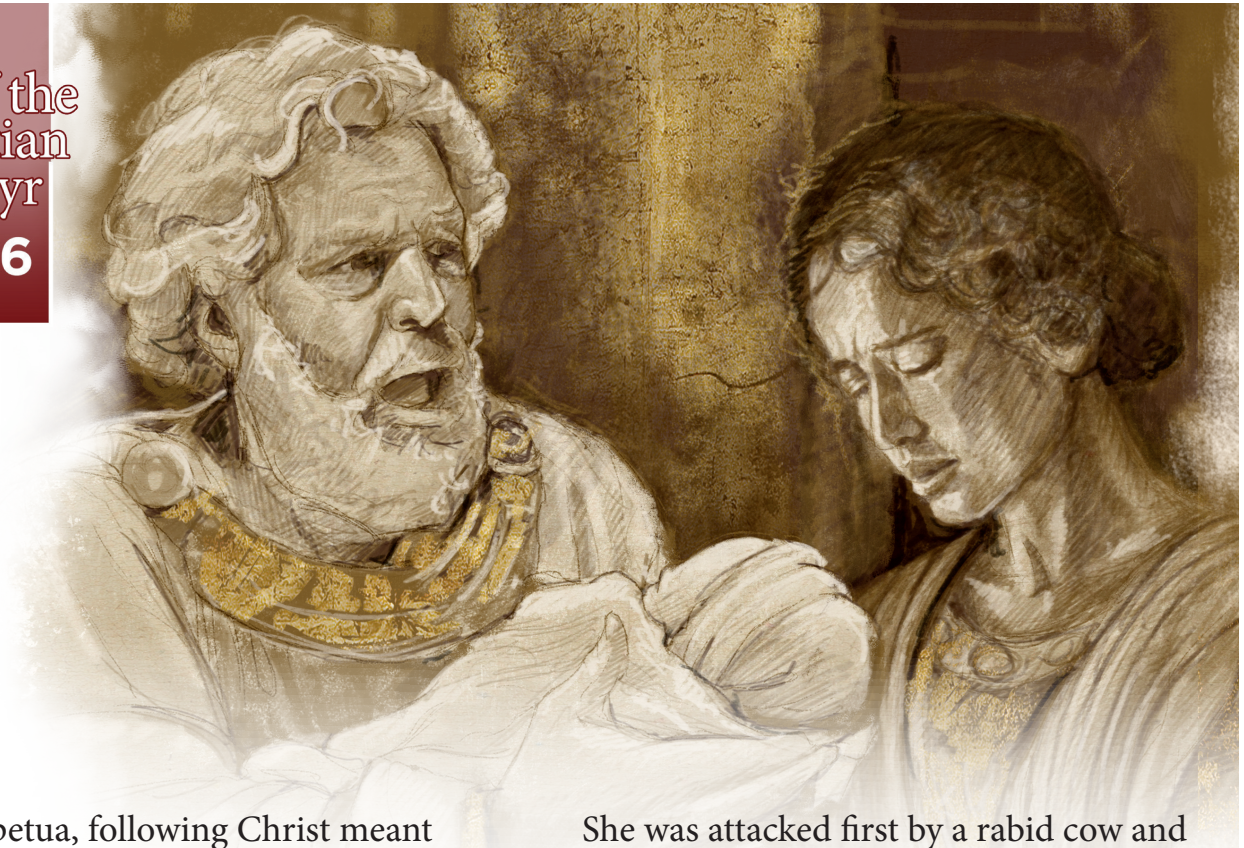
Visit [vom.org/martyr](http://vom.org/martyr) to download and watch the free Day of the Christian Martyr video about Perpetua. If you are unable to view the video, share the story summary below with your family, group or class.

### SUMMARY

---

**I**n A.D. 203, Carthage was a major Roman outpost in what is now Tunisia. One of its citizens, Perpetua, was a well-educated young noblewoman with an infant son. She was also a Christian, and when she refused to deny Christ by offering a sacrifice to Roman gods, she and several other Christians were sentenced to death.

Day of the  
Christian  
Martyr  
2026



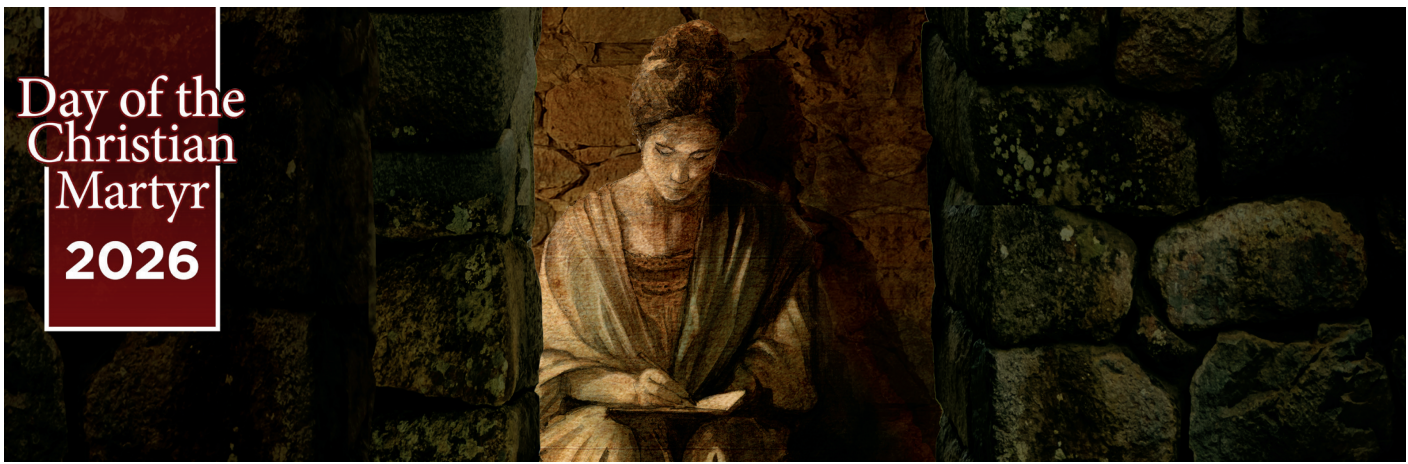
For Perpetua, following Christ meant leaving behind her affluent life. She counted the cost of following Christ, knowing that her devotion would separate her from her family. Her father pled with her to recant her faith for the sake of her infant son, and even Roman officials urged her to offer a simple sacrifice to appease the Roman government, which would save her life. Perpetua declined to place anything above her love for and allegiance to Christ.

Her decision wasn't made in haste. Perpetua's prison diaries tell how she sought the Lord's guidance, relied on God's strength and embraced Christ as worthy of her suffering. She wrote, "I cannot be called anything other than what I am, a Christian." On the day of her execution, she strode to the arena with a radiant countenance.

She was attacked first by a rabid cow and thrown to the ground. Calmly adjusting her tunic to protect her modesty, Perpetua requested a pin to fix her disheveled hair as leaving it loose would be a sign of grief and loss.

As the attacks continued, Perpetua encouraged her companions to stand fast in faith and love for one another. She endured more brutality before finally taking the sword held in the trembling hand of the young gladiator ordered to kill her and guiding it to her throat.

Since her sacrificial death and joyful surrender to God, every generation of Christians has been inspired by Perpetua's faithfulness to Christ.



## QUESTIONS

---

1. As you think about Perpetua's story, what attributes or behaviors come to mind regarding her willingness to lay down her life rather than turn away from her commitment to following Christ?
2. Perpetua refused to place anything above her love for and allegiance to Christ. What might tempt Christians today to unseat Christ in our hearts and minds? What are so-called "good things" that attempt to unseat Christ from the throne of our lives?

### READ PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30 ALOUD.

*"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have"* (Philippians 1:27-30).

3. When Perpetua stood firm in her allegiance to Christ instead of relenting to the pressure to offer sacrifices to appease Roman power, do you think she knew she would suffer? Why or why not?
4. How can we let our manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ?



5. What behaviors should we hold to as faithful Christians, regardless of what family, friends, community or the government pressures us to abandon? What are the core activities of our faith that are worth suffering for?
6. How do we live our lives so that these words from Paul are true about us?

*“I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents.”*

## PRAYER FOCUS

Thank God for the example of Perpetua and others throughout church history who exemplify faithful endurance for the sake of Christ.

Pray that those on the frontlines of gospel advance today in hostile areas and restricted nations will continue to serve Christ at any cost.

Pray for your own ability to stand firm in your conviction, no matter what pressures you might face to abandon the activities of your faith.