

Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For October 25, 2020 sermon:

***Empowered (Book of Acts): "How to respond to opposition"***

**Warm up:** (Questions for discussion)

- What is God doing (in my life/family)?
- How am I doing?
- Where am I growing?
- What might be my next steps of faith?

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

1. Opposition is nothing new; ever since sin and selfishness entered the human race people have been striving against each other to get an advantage. Taking a stand, or opposing something/someone is not always bad if you are standing up for the truth of God. Look at the following Scriptures and talk about why the people in each incident are in opposition to each other:

Genesis 4:2b-8

Numbers 12:1-12

Genesis 37:12-22

Galatians 2:11-14

2. We need to know (in advance!) how to deal with opposition and persecution. If we wait until we are actually facing it, our reaction will be more out of anger or fear than the calm that God wants to give us even in the most difficult circumstances. How does Peter, who did it wrong at times, and did it right other times give us guidance? His challenges and encouragement are in these passages. Read and discuss.

1 Peter 4:12

1 Peter 3:9-10

1 Peter 4:19

1 Peter 3:15

Do you have a story of a time when your reaction to someone who disrespected your faith (and you) was a "ready", measured, and kind response? How did your response change their attitude, or didn't it matter? Even a gracious/godly reaction does not guarantee that they will see the error of their attack.

3. Read Acts 4:24-30 as a group again...this is the prayer the believers lifted to God in response to the command that they stop sharing about Jesus. This is the kind of order a Christian simply cannot obey! As you read the passage, point out the specific things they remember about Jesus' own life and ministry that gives them encouragement, and point out the requests they make to God for themselves.

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

Opposing political views are not persecution! In the upcoming week, would you pray for yourself and for your fellow believers (the Church) that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can be under God's control and represent Him well during this time of upheaval and unrest? "Lord, make us instruments of Your peace!"