



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Study to show "The Way of True life," Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: **Facing Opposition**
TEXT: **Acts 4:1-31**

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: God's world is enemy-occupied territory. The purpose of evangelism is to persuade rebels to defect from the ranks of "the rule this world" and to pledge allegiance to the only rightful King, Jesus. But the imposter is not about to give up territory without a fight! I consistently present the gospel; we are bound to face opposition whether subtle or overt.

1. How might our lives be different if Christianity were suddenly declared illegal?
2. Read Acts 4:1-31- The religious leaders were "greatly disturbed" what Peter and John had said and done (w. 1-2). Why were they threatened by these things?
3. Peter and John were being obedient to God in making Jesus Christ known. In your opinion, why didn't God protect them from arrest and trial (v. 3)?
4. In what subtle or overt ways might we experience opposition today as we talk with people about Christ?
5. Why might Peter and John have easily felt intimidated on the day of their trial (w. 5-7)?
6. As Peter begins to speak, he is "filled with the Holy Spirit" (v. 8). How is the power of the Spirit evident in his words and his attitude (v. 9-13)?
7. What most impressed the Jewish authorities about Peter and John, and why (v. 13)?
8. The authorities decided to forbid further evangelism (v. 14-18). In what situations today might the apostles' response in verses 19-20 be appropriate?
9. What does the prayer of these early Christians reveal about human frailties and feelings (v23-30)?
10. Why do you think the believers pray for boldness rather than freedom from opposition (v. 29)? How can we distinguish boldness from the tactlessness and brashness that turn people off?
11. According to verses 24-30, how was the evangelism of these early Christians affected by:
— Their concept of God? — Their thinking about Jesus? - Their use of God's Word?
12. How can these things help and encourage us in evangelism, especially when facing opposition or persecution?
13. God answers their prayers by filling them with the Holy Spirit (v. 31). Why is the Spirit's presence and power essential in our evangelism?