

REAL CHURCH

GETTING POWER:

A TEACHING SERIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Facing Persecution

Acts 4:1-22

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

Think back to when you were in school. Were you ever bullied, or were *you* a bully? What was that experience like?

What does “persecution” look like for Christians (you) in America? What are 2-3 ways you think persecution will increase for Christians in this country in coming years?

1. Persecution #1: Arrest (1-4; John 15:18-20; Matthew 5:11)

The arrest of Peter and John was part of the catalyst that brought more people to believe. How have you experienced God using persecution for his glory?

Response: God honors faithfulness

Sometimes, the honor of God means relief from, reward for, victory over, escape from persecution, but not always. What are some other, counterintuitive ways God honors faithfulness?

2. Persecution #2: Accusation (5-12)

In what ways do Peter and John provide a model for civil disobedience as Christians?

Response: Always point to Jesus

“Always point to Jesus” seems like an obvious reaction. What are some ways we can respond to persecution that *doesn't* point to Jesus?

3. Persecution #3: Threat (13-22)

Read verse 13. What are some of the characteristics of persecution we should emulate from this verse?

Response: Persist with courageous obedience

Read 1 Peter 3:13-15. What does it mean for you to “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have?” Share a time when you have recently done this.

For deeper study this week, reread Acts 4:1-22 and consider the following questions:



What is something that shines from these verses, impacts, draws attention?



What is difficult to understand in these verses? What would you like to ask the writer, or the Lord?



What is a point of personal application for your life from these verses?