

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FACING OPPOSITION AS A CHRISTIAN
The Gospel of John — Week 27

ICEBREAKER: What's the most courageous thing you've ever done?

OVERVIEW: Opposition against Christians in America is getting worse. If you are a genuine follower of Jesus, you will be tested. You will be hurt or threatened. Will you be ready to stand firm, no matter the cost? Will you have the strength of character and faith to stand up to any opposition that comes your way? In this discussion we are going deeper with how to face opposition as a Christian.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Have you ever faced opposition for your faith? Explain.
3. In what ways might a Christian in the USA face opposition? Which of these do you have the greatest chance of facing in the future?
4. Read James 1:2-4. How should we respond to opposition? Why?

5. Read James 1:12. How should we respond to opposition? What does it mean to "endure" opposition? What reward is promised to those who endure opposition? (For more, see Matthew 5:10-12.)
6. Read Romans 12:14. How should we respond to opposition?
7. Read Romans 12:19-21. How should we respond to opposition?
8. Consider the story of Daniel and his three friends in Daniel 1. As new trainees to serve the king of Babylon, they were assigned a special diet. However, this diet violated the Jewish dietary laws. Read Daniel 1:8-15. What lessons can we learn from Daniel and his friends about facing opposition as Christians?

The Last Word: "Fellowship with God means warfare with the world." Charles E. Fuller