

Hope in the Face of Opposition | John 18:19-24

Opening Activity

The opening activity is designed to help you move into the lesson portion of your meeting time. The icebreaker questions will help to engage your group members in conversation.

- Think back to high school or middle school, what was the greatest opposition you faced? Was it a person or a situation? Are you still opposed by this situation or person?
- How did you overcome this opposition?

Scripture Reading

Ask one of your group members to read the Scripture; make sure they are comfortable with reading in front of a group.

John 18:19-24

“The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, ‘I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.’ When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, ‘Is that how you answer the high priest?’ Jesus answered him, ‘If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?’ Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Transition to the Video

As the leader, you will want to help the group move into the video session and direct them to the notes section in their participant guide. There are different ways to accomplish this transition, here are two examples:

- Read the section on page 19 in the study guide and ask your group members: “How we can be consistent when facing opposition?”
- Or, say “Opposition is going to happen and we don’t always get to choose when something/someone chooses to oppose us. Let’s watch the video and look at how Jesus handles opposition.”

Notes from the Video Session

1. Others will question your **motives** and choices in this world. (John 18:19)
2. No matter the **criticism** or the question, always give a consistent answer based on your convictions. (John 18:21)
3. Don’t be afraid to be bold and consistent in the face of **opposition**. (John 18:22-24)

Transition from the Video

As the leader, help the group move from the video session into the discussion time. There are different ways to accomplish this transition, here are two examples:

- **Ask your group members: “What insights did you gain from the video or scripture?”**
- **Or direct their attention to the discussion questions provided on page 20.**

Discussion Questions

Guide your group members through the discussion time using the questions below:

1. Share a time when you faced ridicule from someone or a group of people?
2. What do you find difficult about others questioning your motives and choices?
3. Jesus keeps His emotions in check and answers His accusers. Why is it often hard for us to keep our emotions in check?
4. What are some of the core convictions you hold? In regard to...
 - faith?
 - family?
 - how you spend your time?
5. Where do you believe boldness comes from?
6. How do you balance being respectful about sharing your faith and being bold with your faith?
7. In what area do you need boldness? Why?

Group Prayer Time

As you close your meeting, set aside time to pray the following for each other:

- Pray for patience and courage in the face of opposition.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to grant wisdom as you have interactions with people who may oppose you at some point. Pray for God to use you as an instrument in His hand.
- Pray for the conviction and resolve to stand firm on the truth of the Gospel.

