

## **Facing PERSECUTION**

The apostles were gripped by the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the power this action brought to anyone who believed. The apostles were willing to speak out about their faith and even face persecution because of their allegiance to Jesus Christ. What do we learn from how Peter and John interacted with the authorities in Acts 4-5? If you are a Christian, can you speak the following phrases with confidence?

Jesus is my \_\_\_\_\_.

The power of the \_\_\_\_\_ fills me with

\_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ I endure for Jesus fills me with \_\_\_\_\_.

# Discussion Questions

## Getting Started

1. Share a story about a time when you stood up for your faith. How did you find the courage to speak out against an evil or do what was right when it would have been easy to just go along with the flow?

## Digging Deeper

2. Study the examples of civil disobedience in Scripture and compare them to our modern day issues (Exodus 1:17; 1 Kings 18:4; Daniel 1:8; 3:18; 6:10).
3. Read these verses about the power of the resurrection (John 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:17; 15:21-22; 1 Peter 1:3; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Romans 8:11; 8:34). Open up your heart to be overwhelmed by the power that now resides inside of you because of Jesus' sacrifice.
4. Read Revelation 20:4; 6:9-11. Christians will be killed because of their testimony in Jesus, their belief in God's Word, and their refusal to worship the antichrist. Are you willing to die for your testimony, the Bible and your allegiance to God?

## Applying the Word to Life

5. Have you been a coward in an area you need to show courage? Respectfully give a reason for the hope that you have to a lost person (1 Peter 3:15). If you've been avoiding a confrontation, do it this week. Pray yourself up and then go show someone what Christ has done in your life.
6. Do you know your Bible well enough to defend your faith? What are you doing to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus week dig deeper in your study of God's Word. Remember, when you study Scripture, you are preparing for a future test.