

HOW TO SURVIVE THE END OF THE WORLD

5. A Lesson from History | Discussion Notes

Read Acts 5.27-42 and then watch the summary video.

- Read John 16.33 one more time. When it comes to times of trouble, Jesus' job is to give us peace. Our job is to have courage. Have you ever experienced trouble because of your faith in Jesus? Do you find it easy or hard to have courage in tough times like these?
- Our faith is based not on feelings but on historical fact. The early believers saw Jesus risen from the dead and so felt they had no choice but to obey God. Is your faith based on a conviction that Jesus is risen from the dead - or is it more about your feelings and experiences?
- Gamaliel's words to the Sanhedrin were prophetic, the early church proved unstoppable despite the most intense persecution. Do you think this is compelling evidence of something supernatural - that Jesus rose from the dead and was seen by the disciples?
- Do we focus enough on our history as the church? What are the benefits of doing this? Should we be sharing this story more with those outside church?
- What does it mean when Jesus says he has overcome the world? What does it mean for us right now?
- Think back over this series. What area do you most need to focus on - prioritising a VISION of the Kingdom and seeking that above all else; developing a DEEPER devotional life and secret history with Jesus; building solid FOUNDATIONS for life by putting Jesus' teaching into practice? Go round the group and share some reflections and goals to put into practice.

Break down into smaller groups, if necessary, and share areas of challenge in your life. Pray for each other, for the peace of God and for the courage you need to trust God.

Pray for the outreach of the church. Pray that God uses our witness to bring his Kingdom to earth in greater measure, just as He did with the early church. Pray specifically for a friend that you have who doesn't know Jesus.

Finally, pray for opportunities and boldness to invite someone to next week's Baptism service. There are also great opportunities coming up with the Christmas Party, Carol Services and other social/spiritual events before the end of the year.