

Surrounded

Leader Guide | Week 2

Key Things You Heard

- Jesus was opposed before he was born.
- Jesus was opposed as an infant.
- Jesus was opposed by his own people.
- Jesus was opposed by the entire religious establishment.

Pray

Heavenly Father, give us the courage to stand with Jesus. We understand that when we stand in Truth, there will be opposition. We know that this is expected as a follower of Jesus. Give us the courage to love people like Jesus loved them. Give us the determination to remain in you. And let us be effective in serving you in all circumstances. In Jesus' name, amen.

Tweetable Moments

"Jesus was encircled by opposition. When we step into his circle, we step into opposition. This is not a place where there is a middle ground."

"In Jesus' circle, there is salvation, grace, peace, purpose, joy, understanding, meaning, truth, love, and light."

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Questions for Conversation

Icebreaker: What actor or actress would you want to play you in the movie about your life?

- Read **Matthew 5:10-12**. Based on this passage of scripture, how are the people living who are persecuted? Why is it important to remember? Have you ever experienced persecution, insults, or had someone say something false about you because of Jesus? Explain. Where is your reward when you are persecuted? Why is it important to remember this?
- Read **Matthew 10:24-26**. In verse 25, it says, “It is enough for the student to be like his teacher.” What was Jesus like in discussions, confrontations, insults, and persecution? Give examples. In what areas of your life are you like the teacher? In what areas do you struggle with being like the teacher? In verse 26, Jesus says, “Do not be afraid of them....” How difficult is this to live out, and why? Why do you think Jesus said this?
- Read **Matthew 10:35-39**. What did Jesus mean when he said, “I have come to turn a man against his...?” What does this passage of scripture indicate about how serious we should take the cost of following Jesus? This passage doesn’t mean you can’t love your father or mother, etc. So, what is it saying? Jerry mentioned what is inside of Jesus’ circle (salvation, grace, peace, purpose, joy, understanding, meaning, truth, love, and light). How does this inform your interpretation of this passage of scripture? How does knowing what is inside of Jesus’ circle give you hope?

Now Go Do It (resources and next steps)

Challenge: Persecution is happening all around the world. We should help carry the burden of the hurting. Unfortunately, many of us are not aware of how much it costs to truly follow Jesus in a world that hates him. Take a few minutes and watch this video from Persecution.org. Then, take time to pray for the persecuted Church. Then, take action. You will find several opportunities on the site to give, pray, write letters, or provide action packs.