

## Part 10 | Obedience & Opposition

Acts 4:1-22

If you follow Jesus expect **OPPOSITION** (v. 1-7)

**offensive** John 15:18-20

**powerful** Rom. 1:16

—but know God will give you **WHAT YOU NEED** (v. 8-14)

**by the Spirit** John 14:26

**clarity, words, conviction, peace** Luke 12:11-12

to boldly live & proclaim **WHAT HE WANTS!** (v. 15-22)

**1. Trust him** v. 15-17 | Psalm 46:10

**2. Obey him** v. 18-20 | Acts 5:29

**3. Choose joy!** v. 21 | Philippians 4:4



Text us at **833-271-8805**.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, **"Pray for..."** followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.

## Politics & Religion

MAIN PLAYERS IN THE N.T.

In the centuries leading up to Jesus's birth, the influence of Greece permeated the cultures of the Ancient Near East (thanks to the conquests of Alexander the Great), including Israel. This cultural influence of ancient Greece is referred to as Hellenism.

In Israel, there were varied responses to the arrival of Hellenism and its influence on Israel's political and social map. This resulted in factions of religious and political groups that appear throughout the New Testament.

**Here's four of the most prominent:**

### 1. The Sadducees

The Sadducees basically accept that Hellenism is present and welcome some of the aspects Graeco-Roman culture. They emerge as the people who are trying to make the best of a bad situation by **simply assimilating to it**. They were a small but wealthy and influential group who believed the Pentateuch alone (first five books of the Old Testament) was God's Word. Because they could find no evidence of resurrection in those writings, they famously refused to believe in resurrection of the dead.

### 2. The Pharisees

The Pharisees emerged during the period of Antiochus Epiphanes by **engaging culture**. They accept some things, but also push back to limit the amount of influence coming from Hellenistic Culture. Over time this resulted in a ton of rules that—while well-intentioned—were over-and-above what God actually prescribed in his Word. Obeying their rules eventually became more important to them than loving God and others.

### 3. The Essenes/Qumran Community

This group felt so pressured and overwhelmed by the influx of the culture that **they withdrew from it**. Some even headed out into the desert (Qumran) where they established their own community and isolated themselves in a world where the influence of a pagan culture was seemingly minimized.

### 4. The Zealots

This crew **fought against the culture** and wanted to eliminate the presence of Gentiles in the Jewish world. You might say they wanted to "Make Israel Great Again", so to speak. Their passionate nationalism eventually lead to a war with Rome and the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem around 70 AD.

## Jesus the Reconciler

Amazingly, Jesus **reconciled—even appointed as disciples—people from all of these groups!** He called them (and us) into a Kingdom that supersedes culture, politics, and religion. Following and obeying Jesus brings true peace, but always invites opposition from those who love their worldview and way of life more than his grace.



## Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

## Welcome to Life Group!

Each week we'll spend part of our time getting to know more about one another.

### Share with the Group:

*Sometimes we know intellectually that tough and bad things are inevitable. But when they happen, we're shocked. Which of the following events are hardest for you to prepare for, or even grasp that they "might really happen"?*

- a natural disaster
- a car accident
- medical emergency
- death
- disappointment from a friend
- retirement
- loss of a job
- betrayal by another person
- other

**Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching,** was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- As followers of Jesus, not everything we experience in this world is going to go well. In fact, as Christians, we're going to face opposition in many forms. However, everything we do, everything we are, everything we experience can be to the glory of God. **How do the following passages give you encouragement and hope in your trials?**

- **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
- **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

<sup>2</sup> Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. **JAMES 1:2-4** (CSB)

<sup>33</sup> I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world.

Be courageous! I have conquered the world." **JOHN 16:33** (CSB)

*(Study Guide continues on back panel...)*

# Welcome to Wawasee!

## OUR MISSION

We are *sent* to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

## YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible “home”, we challenge you to pursue **three things**:

### 1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

### 2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

### 3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

## Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find for Acts 4:8-12 (CSB)

Find the words **bolded** below.

**8** Then Peter was **filled** with the **Holy Spirit** and **said** to them, “**Rulers of the people and elders**: **9** If we are **being examined today** about a **good deed done** to a **disabled man**, by what **means** he was **healed**, **10** let it **be known** to all of you and to all the **people of Israel**, that by the **name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom you **crucified** and whom God **raised** from the **dead**—by him this man is **standing here** before you **healthy**. **11** This **Jesus** is the **stone rejected** by you builders, which has become the **cornerstone**. **12** **There** is salvation in no one else, for **there** is no other **name** under heaven given to **people** by which we must **be saved**.”

M Z S P I R I T C R O C C  
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J E S U S A I D P E T E R

## life groups Study Guide (continued)

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. <sup>11</sup> “You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **MATTHEW 5:10–12 (CSB)**

<sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy. Take note—your reward is great in heaven, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the prophets. **LUKE 6:22–23 (CSB)**

- How can you continue to glorify God when things don't go the way you think they should?

### 3. Read Job, Chapter 38.

Job is the story of a guy who had pretty much everything and then lost pretty much everything in an afternoon—family, friends, money, health, success, position in life. For several chapters leading up to Chapter 38, Job has been questioning God on why he would allow these things to happen. Job thought that God had turned his back on him, which is often our temptation during extended times of suffering.

- How does Job 38 help you to resist the temptation to think God has turned his back on you?
- How can you continue to trust the Word of God and still be a light in spite of all circumstances? (See Philippians 4:11-13)

## Taking It Home

1. This week is Thanksgiving. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**. What all—*good and bad*—can you give thanks for this week?

## Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women and pray for one another.**

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

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# ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, November 20, 2022



PART **10**

Obedience & Opposition

ACTS 4:1-22



### We're Glad You're Here Today!

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access today's bulletin using the same QR or link.

