

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

8. Share about a recent comment you heard or conversation you had that could have been an opportunity to bring up your hope in Christ.

9. How might we help one another prepare to give a good defense of the faith through our small groups?



October 1, 2017

The Persecution
Acts 11:19—12:24

1. Persecution S_____ the Good News

2. Persecution A_____ to the C_____ of Witnessing

3. Persecution Never R_____ Believers of L_____

4. Persecution C_____ the Evil Doer D_____

**Even in the F_____ O_____ E_____, Jesus will build
His Church through Y_____ W_____**

What do I need to do with what I've heard today?

Prayer Requests

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GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

OCTOBER 1, 2017

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

1. Though we may not face persecution like the Christians in Acts 11 and 12, we do face efforts to shut down God's mission. What are some ways we face this in our workplaces or our neighborhoods?

How can we prepare for these encounters?

2. Have you ever had to take a moral stand that ended up costing you something? If so, what was it and what did you learn from that experience?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ 1 PETER 3:8-12

3. Peter addressed these verses to "all of you." What would an emphasis on community do for people who are facing persecution?

How does it make us stronger as we face various challenges?

4. How do you most often respond when someone wrongs you?

Why do you tend to respond this way?

How did Peter say we are to respond (v. 9)?

5. Think of an example of verses 10-12 in action from Jesus' earthly ministry or the stories we have heard in Acts. How does that example help you better understand what these instructions look like when lived out?

READ 1 PETER 3:13-17.

6. If someone asked, "Are you prepared to explain what you believe and why," how would you describe the hope that is in you?

7. Why can it be so difficult to maintain "gentleness and respect" in conversations about our faith?