

# Small Group Discussion Guide

*Overcoming Opposition: For the week of April 18 - 24, 2021*

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## Main Thought and Scriptures:

*(Break into groups of 3-4. Discuss for 30-40 minutes)*

God sent the Holy Spirit to empower all believers to fulfill their God-given purpose and to stand for the Gospel amid crisis and opposition. The first disciples demonstrated this and provided a powerful picture for us to overcome as well. After being filled with the Spirit, they healed a disabled man, got arrested, and thrown into prison. Although the authorities persecuted them, they courageously stood firm in their faith and made a lasting difference in the world. From their example, we learn to:

### 1. Go to God and be filled with the Spirit.

*"On their release [from jail], Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup>When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God... <sup>29</sup>Now, Lord, consider their threats and **enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.** <sup>30</sup>Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.' <sup>31</sup>After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.**" (Acts 4:23-24, 29-31 NIV)*

### 2. Ask God to move with supernatural power.

*"Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus'... <sup>32</sup>All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus..." (Acts 4:30, 32-33 NIV)*

### 3. Look for ways to serve and to be sacrificially generous to others.

*"...And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup>that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup>and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need." (Acts 4:33-35 NIV)*

## Discussion Questions: *(select those that best apply)*

- What stands out to you from the weekend sermon and the discussion points listed above and why?
- How have you experienced God's supernatural power at work in your life? What happened and what did you learn through that experience?
- What are some situations right now that you need God's power to move in for yourself or for someone else? What practical steps can you take to invite God's power into that situation?

## Prayer: *(10 Minutes)*

- Pray for one another's situations, for God's power to bring breakthrough for you and as a testimony to others.
- Pray for someone whom you know needs a breakthrough. Pray that God will move in power and that He will use you to connect them to Him.