



## MAIN POINT

*God uses suffering in our lives to grow us in our love for Him and in our commitment to the church.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

When was the last time you went out of your way to help, support, or encourage someone you love? Has someone done this for you lately?

When you are going through a hard time, how do you prefer people treat you? How do you want others to help you?

### > READ ACTS 4:1-12.

Peter and John landed in jail because of their testimony about Jesus (4:1-7). Why does sharing the gospel of Jesus provoke people to oppose both the message and the messengers?

How did those in the temple listening to Peter and John react to their message (vv. 3-4)? What various responses have you seen from people when you've shared about your relationship with Jesus?

What motivated Peter to again share the gospel with the religious leaders? What is the main point of his testimony in these verses?

Peter referred to Jesus as the "cornerstone." What did Peter mean by that? How do Peter's words and actions demonstrate that Jesus was the cornerstone of his life?

On Sunday, we learned that Jesus must be the cornerstone of our lives. What things, other than Jesus, are you tempted to center your life around? Why is it dangerous to do so?

### > READ PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30.

Paul speaks of suffering in verse 29 as a privilege. Why can suffering be beneficial (see also 2 Corinthians 1:5-6)? How have you experienced this?

How might the way you handle adversity encourage believers (see also 2 Corinthians 1:8-9)? How might it impact unbelievers?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Peter and John were fishermen, and yet in Acts 4 they boldly proclaim Christ in the face of opposition. How can I proclaim Christ this week? How can I prepare to face opposition?

How might suffering provide me opportunities to share Christ? To serve others?

What am I willing to risk in order to share the gospel? What is one practical step I could take this week to grow in my love for Christ and my commitment to the church?