



## **There are times when believing is not enough! (Part 2)**

### **How to Use This Life Group Guide**

1. Review your message notes from Greg's sermon.
2. Write out your answers to the questions below.
3. Review and discuss the questions and answers with your group along with the sermon notes.

## **A Christian Response to Islam**

**READ:** Acts 4: 8-12

The focal passage for this message series is 1 Peter 3: 13-17. We looked at that text pretty extensively both in last week's sermon as well as the small group study notes. If you did not complete last week's Life Group study of the 1 Peter passage it is suggested that you do so before moving on to this week's more controversial and emotional topic.

This week we read about a historical event that occurred in Jerusalem shortly after Jesus' death and resurrection. It is recorded in the book of Acts in which Peter (author of the focal passage) actually models what he later wrote about in 1 Peter 3 while trying to encourage Christians being persecuted by those who were hostile to the Christian faith.

Last week we dealt with the secular opposition, which was represented by the Romans in the first century. This week we deal with the religious opposition, which was represented by the Jews who considered Christians heretics and infidels who had abandoned the 'true faith' of Judaism to follow Jesus, whom they considered to be a false prophet.

Because of the atrocities of the Holocaust our hearts empathize with Jews today. However, history is clear that the Jews were among the most harsh and violent opponents of early Christianity. To the Jewish mind, then and now, history formed a key component of understanding. They saw in history the unfolding drama of man's redemption. Granted, they misconstrued it in terms of the immediate breaking off from Rome. IN that light, the most important deliverance to the Jews was political. When it became obvious that wasn't where Jesus was headed they rejected Him. To this day, the crucifixion is a 'stumbling block' to the Jews, even as it is to the Muslims.

We have much to learn from Peter’s response to the Jewish opposition of the first century as we seek to know how we should respond as Christians to the challenge of Islam today. Reread today’s passage from Acts 4 and read it as if Peter was responding to Muslims rather than Jews. It becomes obvious that Peter’s argument began and ended with Jesus.

## **For further Study and Personal Reflection and Discussion:**

1. First, it should be noted that Peter was responding to questions being asked. Something truly remarkable had occurred which prompted interest and the inquiries. When is the last time someone appeared interested in you because of your faith and asked you about it? Why do you think there is not more interest in Christianity in America? What do Christians have to offer that might attract their attention?

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. After people asked questions, Peter was able to give a clear and confident explanation of what happened. How about you? If a Muslim were to ask you about your faith could you give a clear and bold statement of explanation? Our objective is not to answer every argument a Muslim may have but to demonstrate the reasonableness of Christianity and the Good News of Jesus.

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. Peter cited scripture when responding to the Jewish challenge. One Muslim said, “Muslims respect Christians more deeply when we stand firm in our belief that the Scripture is the Word of God.” Do you really BELIEVE the Bible is the Word of God? If so are you able to cite the Bible when responding to a Muslim challenge?

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Peter points out *“there is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”* Do you believe that? Really believe it? Could it be determined that Jesus is at the center of your personal faith?

---

---

---

---

---

---

5. Why do you think Islam and other religions have become so prevalent in today’s world? What is their attraction?

---

---

---

---

---

---

6. How should Christians relate to Islam and minister to Muslims? Why should we?

---

---

---

---

---

---

7. What steps do you believe Christian churches in America should take to make sure it’s members are ‘prepared’ (1 Peter 3:15) to meet the current and future challenge of Islam?

---

---

---

---

---

---

