



# ACTS

*the story of the Church*

## Sermon Guide

# WEEK 6

## LEADERSHIP AND OPPOSITION

**Read:** ACTS 5:17-42

### Consider:

Throughout Acts, we see the disciples face all kinds of opposition and challenges against their faith in Jesus. The way they respond to this opposition provides a great example of how Christian leadership should look when the going gets tough. In life, we know that not everyone is for us. There will be times when we need to stand firm against the opposition that arises. As believers, we must face this opposition with the understanding that all great leaders take some undeserved beatings. But in responding to these struggles, great leadership is displayed in the way we rejoice in our suffering. Jesus set this example by accepting the ultimate undeserved beating and conquering death with a rejoicing heart. How will we respond?

### Engage:

1. Who or what things in your life might not be “for you?” What are your feelings toward those people or things?
2. What are some areas in your life where you need to stand firm? How do you handle opposition against your beliefs?

3. What are some “undeserved beatings” you have taken in your life?
4. Why is rejoicing so hard? Have you been rejoicing in your suffering? Why not?

**Practice:**

1. **Confess:** What emotion(s) does opposition against you bring about?
2. **Plan:** Make a list of areas where you want to stand firm against opposition and then create an action plan to fulfill the “standing firm.”
3. **Rejoice:** Write a thank you letter rejoicing for undeserved suffering. Reflect on how these sufferings have shaped you and your walk with Christ.

**Apply:**

1. Pray for a rejoicing heart despite the undeserved sufferings you have faced and/or continue to face.
2. Find a few people who are FOR you and thank them for being on your team, for having your back, and for encouraging you through suffering.
3. Stand firm against the opposition in your world. Have a conversation. Take action.

**Ask:**

Did last week’s sermon bring any questions to mind? Discuss with your group. Someone else might have had the same question or know how to answer yours!

Still have questions? Feel free to reach out to Dominique at [dominique@hopefellowshipknox.com](mailto:dominique@hopefellowshipknox.com).