



Stubborn Hope

Isaiah 50:4-9 | Session 10.37

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

Context

Start by asking:

- Thinking of some instances when people have effectively countered violence with peace and non-violent responses, what did they accomplish?
- Why were their methods so successful?
- In what ways was this is a Biblical model for responding to violence and/or injustice?
- What challenges does this incident issue to us as believers?

Content

Read Isaiah 50:4-9, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- What abilities or gifts does the speaker talk about and how or when might this kind of ability provoke a violent response from others?
- How has the speaker responded to God and why is it important to note first how he responds to God, not just how he responds to his enemies?
- Read aloud Romans 12:17-20. In what ways does this compare to the speaker's response?
- In what ways do you see Jesus' journey foreshadowed here?
- What is the speaker so determined to do, and why do his enemies want to stop him?
- Why, ultimately, can he stand up to his enemies and accusers?

Closure

Continue by asking:

- How does Jesus' response to violence compare to that shown in this passage?
- At what points have Jesus' followers sometimes done this well, or not so well?
- How does this approach differ from passively offering for others to hurt us?
- What do we learn from this passage and Jesus' example about why and how we can behave in this way?
- Knowing that when we talk about violence we don't have to limit our discussion to physical harm, how can we view our response to hateful words and injustice done by individuals and systems?
- Where do we find different types of violence today and how might God be calling us today to respond to it?

Close with prayer.

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