

# BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



**FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH**

Produced Weekly

***Face Opposition with Humble Confidence***  
1 Peter 3:13-18a

**Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.**

## **Leaders' Responsibilities:**

**Important:** Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

## **Prior to this Coming Session:**

### **Gathering Time Leader:**

### **Bible Study Leader:**

Use a white board or large piece of paper to list the positive teachings of this passage.

### **Worship Time Leader:**

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*Face Opposition with Humble Confidence – 24-51-05-en*

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## **Music Sources:**

**They'll Know We Are Christians**, *The Worship Hymnal* #385; CCLI # 26997

**Sweet, Sweet Spirit**, *The Worship Hymnal* #328; CCLI # 18204

**God Will Take Care of You**, *The Worship Hymnal* #90; CCLI #93645

**Thy Word**, *The Worship Hymnal* #342; CCLI # 14301

**Ancient Words**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 344; CCLI # 2986399

# 1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

**Gathering Time:** (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

## ***Face Opposition with Humble Confidence***

### **Focal Text**

1 Peter 3:13-18a (first half of verse 18)

### **Background**

1 Peter 3:13—4:11

### **Main Idea**

Christians are to be ready to face opposition to their faith with humble confidence, remembering the example of Christ.

### **Question to Explore**

How should Christians deal with opposition to their faith?

### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the church to describe how Christians should deal with opposition to their faith.

### **Gathering together:**

Sing:

**They'll Know We Are Christians**, *The Worship Hymnal* #385; CCLI # 26997

**Sweet, Sweet Spirit**, *The Worship Hymnal* #328; CCLI # 18204

### **First thoughts:**

The question to explore for today is “How should Christians deal with opposition to their faith?” We live in a world where many culture and religious points of view exist. We need to be careful that we express tolerance and acceptance of other points of view even as we share our own understanding of faith with others. Peter’s practical suggestions for living out our faith can help us avoid being judgmental, critical and unloving. Even as we study, let us pray for those Christians who by the very fact of their faith are putting their lives at risk.

### **Closing the Gathering Time:**

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

# 2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

**Note to the Bible Study Leader:** Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

## Teacher Preparation

### *Face Opposition with Humble Confidence*

#### **Focal Text**

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#### **Background**

1 Peter 3:13—4:11

#### **Main Idea**

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#### **Question to Explore**

How should Christians deal with opposition to their faith?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the church to describe how Christians should deal with opposition to their faith.

#### **Introduction to your personal study:**

Christians around the world today face serious opposition to their faith. North American Christians sometimes feel that they face opposition because they can no longer freely exercise their beliefs in the public forum. Many North American Christians struggle to accept and value the multicultural and religious pluralism of the world today. Pray for personal wisdom in valuing other cultures and religions while understanding and valuing Christianity with fervour and commitment.

#### **Background:**

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #....) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

You will be studying one of the most difficult passages in Scripture. Take time and read the passage in as many translations as you can find. A basic doctrine that undergirds this section is that Christ suffered for the sins of all mankind. It was His sacrifice for sin that restored the relationship with God that was broken in the Garden of Eden.

Christ conquered death. After His resurrection He entered heaven where even the angels in heaven and demons in hell are subject to Him. There is nothing in creation that is outside His power.

With this kind of power on your side you can face opposition with humble confidence. You may suffer, but you will not suffer alone. The blood of the martyrs became the seed of the church.

## **Focusing on the Meaning:**

### **I. Consider Your Personal Response:**

**Be eager to do good (v.13).** *“Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good”?* There was a popular song years ago that said, “accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative.”

From [Wikipedia](#), the free encyclopedia:

**"Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive"** is a [popular](#) song. The music was written by [Harold Arlen](#) and the lyrics by [Johnny Mercer](#), and it was published in 1944. It is sung in the style of a sermon, and explains that accentuating the positive is key to happiness. In describing his inspiration for the lyric, Mercer told the [Pop Chronicles](#) radio documentary "I went to hear [Father Divine](#) and he had a sermon and his subject was 'you got to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative.' And I said 'Wow, that's a colorful phrase!'"<sup>[1][2]</sup>

Mercer recorded the song, with [The Pied Pipers](#) and [Paul Weston](#)'s orchestra, on October 4, 1944....and lasted 13 weeks on the (“Top Ten”) chart, peaking at number 2.<sup>[3]</sup>

Within a matter of weeks, several other recordings of the song were released by other well-known artists (including) [Bing Crosby](#) and [The Andrews Sisters](#) ....

**"Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive"** is merely a song or theme. Our life in Christ provides much more than quoting a song about feeling positive. Christianity is a positive religion. Christ was positive and optimistic. He expects us to pattern our whole life around His example. We live positively and rightly because He was and is positive and right, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Do what is right (v. 13). **“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed”**. Suffer for the right reasons. You will be blessed. Remember this is the same word used in the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. It means happy and it means fortunate. This principle is bound up in the fact that you are called and chosen by God.

Have no fear (v. 14). **“Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened”**. Christ had conquered death so there was nothing to fear. **“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation . . .” “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** (Romans 8:35; 38-39, King James Version). He has conquered it all.

Be reverent toward Christ (v. 15). **“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord”**. Sanctify God in your hearts. The original verse quoted and translated is found in Isaiah 8:13. Ahaz ignores the prophet Isaiah and doom comes upon Israel and Judah. Peter calls for the churches to place God foremost in their lives and let Him take care of them. This is a call to live by faith and not be concerned about the consequences.

Is God special to you? Is He in your heart? Others can tell if He is.

Have a prepared response (v. 15). **“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have”**. A Christian’s countenance should reflect his or her trust in God. As the world collapsed around the early believers, they certainly would be questioned as to why they were not worried or afraid. Each one would have an opportunity to witness and attest to their hope in the Lord.

How much do you know about the Scriptures? It is that amount that you will be able to share with another. There is no shame in knowing but a little, it is a shame not to want to know more.

Be gentle and respectful (v. 15). **“Do this with gentleness and respect”**. The Christian response to others should not be pious and judgmental. The early believers would not be the only ones experiencing tribulation, but they would be the only ones with an answer: the only ones with a hope. Today, as much as any time in history, we must gently and respectfully lead others to the Lord. We can never be obnoxious when witnessing to a lost soul or relating to someone to whom we might have a potential witness. In fact, our very actions are a witness.

There is much to be said for prayer, preparation, preaching, and letting the Holy Spirit do the rest.

Keep a clear conscience (v. 16). **“Keeping a clear conscience”**. The conscience is the part of us that tells us when we do something wrong. If we continue to do right then there is no guilt with which to contend.

The most compelling argument for others is the argument of the Christian life. A believer should act with a clear conscience. He should live a life above reproach. Such a life will disarm criticism. Someone has said, "A saint is someone whose life makes it easier to believe in God."

This will allow you to shrug off gossip and rumours about your conduct that are not true. It will allow you to concentrate upon more important things such as witnessing to the lost.

## **II. Christ's Examples:**

Doing the will of God (v. 17). ***"For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil"***. People suffer for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they suffer because they have brought it on themselves by evil deeds or good deeds. It is better to suffer for doing good deeds. One should never shirk his/her Christian duty because suffering might ensue. Christ never drew back.

Having the same attitude of Christ (v. 4:1). ***"Arm yourselves also with the same attitude"***. What was the attitude of Christ? It was all the principles found in the first part of this lesson.

## **III. Christ Settled Your Debt of Sin.**

V. 18a (first part of the verse). Christ died for the sins of the unrighteous. This act was performed that each one would be brought to God. His body was dead but His spirit was alive. Then, God raised Him from that physical death to continue His eternal life forever with the Father in Heaven. For 40 days He continued on earth—alive, visible, and touchable—teaching his followers. Then He ascended to Heaven where He reigns as Lord of all creation.

Christians should have no fear of Satan and his demons because Christ has become victorious over them. The personal relationship one has with Christ provides the power for a believer to be victorious over Satan and sin.

## **Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:**

One's speech and one's actions defines one's character or lifestyle to those around. Peter wanted the churches of Asia Minor to uphold the character and life of Jesus Christ.

Never lose sight of the fact that God is sovereign. He is in control.

Satan and his angels will never win the war with Christ.

## **For Personal Reflection:**

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**What have I learned from this study?**

**What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

**What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

## **Bible Study Plan** (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

### ***Face Opposition with Humble Confidence***

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

**Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.**

#### **Focal Text**

1 Peter 3:13-18a (first half of verse 18)

#### **Background**

1 Peter 3:13—4:11

#### **Main Idea**

Christians are to be ready to face opposition to their faith with humble confidence, remembering the example of Christ.

#### **Question to Explore**

How should Christians deal with opposition to their faith?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the church to describe how Christians should deal with opposition to their faith.

#### **Connect with Life:**

Ask: How big is your God? Allow time for class to consider this question.

Then continue with this question, Are there places you will not allow God to go?

Write the word “sovereign” on the board or a large sheet of paper. Ask for members of the class to define the word. Include these in the definition: All-powerful; has supreme authority or power.

Say: In this lesson you will see the sovereignty of Christ over life, death, and the grave. Nothing in this created universe is outside His power. It is that power that is offered to you and me right now.

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## Guide the Study:

Ask someone to read 1 Peter 3:13-18a (ie: first part of verse 18).

Question to ponder: What will your response be to such a powerful God? What will your witness reveal?

### I. Consider Your Personal Response.

*You may want to record the list of admonitions on a white board or a large piece of paper.*

State: The churches in Asia Minor were experiencing persecution. This persecution was a result of their living a different life-style from their earlier life. Persecution may have come from former friends or even from family. The Neronian persecution broke out in A.D. 64 and many scholars, who think that we must allow time for the persecution to have spread from Rome to the provinces, date the letter about A.D. 67. Since Peter encouraged loyalty to the emperor, the letter probably predates the actual persecution but undoubtedly there was a sense of a blow about the fall.

Question: How would you have responded to what the churches in Asia Minor were experiencing?

Tell the class: The first thing Peter says is to be eager to do good. Who can harm you if you are eager to do good (v. 13)? Christ was positive and optimistic and so should be characteristics of a believer.

Add: Then the second thing Peter writes is do what is right (v. 13).

Ask: What did Peter indicate would happen if a person did what is right? (Be blessed).

Let the class know: This is the same word used in the Beatitudes in Matthew chapter 5. It means fortunate. If the word "happy" is used to mean blessed, discuss what kind of happiness it refers to.

Next: Have no fear (vs. 14). The Apostle Paul wrote on fear in Romans 8:35-39. No fear comes from knowing Christ and His abundant power to keep each of His own.

Continue with the next response: Be reverent toward Christ (v. 14). Peter calls for the churches to place their trust in Christ and let Him take care of them during the times of tribulation.

It is important to let the class know that people are watching to see how they are responding to various trials and tribulations that come. They may even ask questions about why the Christian responds as he/she does.

Tell them it is important to have a response when someone asks why we respond as we do (v. 15). No one knows what will happen in the next moment. A Christian should be proactive in knowing what is to be said. You cannot use scripture as an answer if you do not know scripture.

Ask what are some responses you have made or have encountered when trials and tribulations come?

As you deal with others be gentle and respectful. Christians are not the only ones who experience trials and tribulations, but they are the only ones with Christ at their side. Never be obnoxious when witnessing to a lost soul.

Tell them this: A professor of preaching at a seminary would tell his students, “the people to whom you preach are all hurting in one way or another”.

In v. 16 Peter tells the churches to keep a clear conscience. The conscience is our moral compass. It lets one know when something is right or wrong. When a believer continues to do right (is righteous) then there will be no guilt with which to contend.

Ask: Would you agree that the most compelling argument for Christianity is a Christian life?

Recap: A believer should live a life in which his conscience is always clear. His life should be above reproach. His life should be lived in such a way as to disarm his accusers. Someone has said, “A saint is someone whose life makes it easier to believe in God.”

## **II. Christ's Examples.**

Say: Each and every believer is to be Christ's example to others. You do that by doing the will of God (v. 17). That will might include suffering.

Say: Each and every believer is to have the same attitude as Christ. The principles found in the first section of this lesson give you a glimpse into the attitude of Christ.

Question: What does your example reveal about Christ? Is your example a good one or a bad one? If you name the Name of Jesus then whatever you do reveals what you think of Him.

## **III. Christ Settled Your Debt of Sin.**

Read the first half of verse 18 to the group

Tell the group: This is the most important fact for you to grasp in this lesson. This is what enables one to live without fear as to what others might do.

Give them the words of the old hymn: “Be not dismayed what ere betide, God will take care of you”.

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,  
God will take care of you;  
Beneath His wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.

**God Will Take Care of You**, *The Worship Hymnal* #90; CCLI #93645

## Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

As we conclude our Bible study, let's consider three key statements and two basic questions:

Read the following to the group:

1. God is sovereign over His universe.
2. Satan and his demons will ultimately meet their doom.
3. Christ's resurrection over death is the faith fact that believers have to sustain them in times of trouble.

Now present these questions:

1. Ask: If those three statements are true, how does it impact you in dealing with others who oppose your faith and beliefs?
2. Ask: Does this lesson reinforce the need for believers to congregare with one another? If so, why?

Close by asking someone to pray that God will grant each one and our church together to face opposition with humble confidence.

**Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time.** Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

# Youth!!! Take Ten

## Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

### ***Face Opposition with Humble Confidence*** **1 Peter 3:13-18a**

**A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.**

What would you do if someone started bullying you?

What do you think of Matthew 5:39? ***“But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.”***

Who is saying this?

Would you be willing to walk away from the next confrontation?

This is not an easy lesson to learn. But, as you grow you will find that many the things that you would fight over when you were young make little difference when you are older.

# 3

Copy this section for the Worship Time leader.

## **Worship Time** (Suggested time: 30 minutes)

### ***Face Opposition with Humble Confidence***

**1 Peter 3:13-18a**

#### **Beginning the Service:**

Worship Leader: Our theme for today has been how to face opposition with humble confidence. We literally live in glass houses. Others are watching our every move to see if what we say we believe aligns with what we do.

Say: Meeting opposition with confrontation will not win us any popularity contests. Jesus has given us in His Word methods we can use to stand up to any opposition with humility and confidence.

The message this morning will help you as you stand for your faith.

Sing:

**Thy Word**, *The Worship Hymnal* #342; CCLI # 14301

**Ancient Words**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 344; CCLI # 2986399

#### **Offering:**

Take an offering and use it to further the work of the kingdom.

#### **Praying for the World:**

Pray for the churches around the world who are facing serious opposition from governments and other religious groups.

#### **Sharing Guide:**

**This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to**

**give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.**

## **Always Be Prepared Know what the Word of God is**

### Introduction

***“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15).***

The only way a believer can be able to respond when asked about the hope he has is to be prepared. The only way to be prepared is to know what God has said. For believers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the place to go to get the information is the Bible.

The first believers had limited ways of getting that information. One was from the Old Testament and another was from oral sources. There were those who had been with Jesus and were teaching and writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Peter had been with Jesus and had heard Him teach. He passes the gospel on to the churches in Asia Minor by a letter which would one day become a part of the inspired Word of God.

The Bible as we have it today contains a collection of sixty-six small books. It is the Word of God. The Bible is the record of God’s revelation of Himself. It should be our authority in all matters of faith and practice.<sup>1</sup> It is useful or profitable for spiritual instruction. By following the Bible’s instructions believers will be able to perform good works that will bring glory to God.

Why should you believe the Bible as guide for faith and practice. Because . . .

### **1. THE WORD OF GOD IS INSPIRED OF GOD.**

***“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).***

SCRIPTURE IS inspired by God. It is:

Profitable for doctrine. It teaches the truths of God.

Profitable for reproof. It points out error and rebukes sin.

Profitable for correction. It tells how to correct errors once the error is known.

Profitable for instruction in righteousness”. It provides constructive education

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<sup>1</sup> *Our Doctrines*, Tribble, pg. 14.

about a godly lifestyle.

Note that this verse originally was applied to the Old Testament. Therefore, the Old Testament as well as the New Testament is important. We should study the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation. We study God's Word for the approval of God. We study so that it will become a bulwark or protection against sin.

***“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”*** (2 Timothy 2:15, King James Version).

***“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”*** (Psalms 119:11, King James Version).

There is no other book written by man that can do for us what the Bible can do. There is no substitute for it. But we cannot know it without studying it. Even if one cannot read well there are tapes and CDs for listening.

## **2. THE WORD OF GOD IS YOUR SOURCE.**

***“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”*** (Hebrews 4:12, King James Version).

***“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and mind, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart”*** (Hebrews 4:12, Revised Standard Version).

The Greek word for discern is *kritikos* which is the word from which we derive critic. God is our critic. He critiques man's life on the basis of His Word. Through the Word God examines a person and looks deep inside where it really counts. The Word is the standard for His judgment. We will respond positively to the Bible when we take it on faith.

The Word of God is not a dead letter. It is alive. It is a letter from a powerful living God. It cuts into the life of man looking deep inside for the intentions of a person. God knows each person's heart.

“THE WORD OF GOD IS . . . “penetrating”. Word after word piles up this emphasis.

It is “Quick”. It makes alive.

It is “Powerful”. It has energy.

It is “Sharp”. It divides good and evil.

It is “Piercing”. It cuts deep.

It is “Discerning”. It is critical; it gives insight for making wise decisions.

The Word of God makes evident whether a person is really seeking to have purity and holiness and fellowship with God or whether a person is letting his or her lower base instincts take over. The Word of God looks into the deepest recesses of the heart.<sup>2</sup> It judges by penetrating all of life and takes it all into view.

***“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting”*** (Psalms 129:23-24, King James Version).

The Word of God is not just something to be studied and then forgotten. It is to become a way of life to be lived out in front of a disbelieving world. This verse could well be a daily prayer.

### **3. THE WORD OF GOD IS YOUR GUIDE.**

***“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”*** (Psalms 119:105, King James Version).

If you have ever taken a tour in a cavern you will experience darkness. Somewhere along the tour the guide will turn out all of the lights. The ensuing darkness is complete. One cannot see one’s hand in front of one’s face.

In the Bible sin is depicted as darkness. There is light to see in the darkness of sin if people will avail themselves of it. A person cannot see sin without light to reveal it. The Bible reveals sin and reveals the path out of it.

#### Conclusion

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is the standard for faith and practice. It is the guide for life.

One should never leave home on a long trip without a map of the territory which he or she intends to cover. Even so, one should not try to navigate life without the Bible as a guide. We believe the Bible is our guide for faith and practice because:

**IT IS INSPIRED OF GOD  
IT IS OUR STANDARD  
IT IS OUR GUIDE**

Without the Bible we would not know how to be saved. It is the standard for witness. That is why groups like the Wycliffe translators are getting the Word into the heart language of people all around the world. If you are privileged to have it in your heart language - Read it. Believe it. Walk in it.

If you do these things you will be well prepared to answer anyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is within you. You can face opposition with humble

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<sup>2</sup> *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, Erdman, pg.56.

confidence.

### **Call to Commitment:**

Join hands in a circle and commit together to walk uprightly in the community in which you live. Make a commitment to support one another in this endeavor.

REPEAT: I will commit my life to be Christ's witness in my community this week. I will commit myself to support my fellow believers.

### **Concluding the Service:**

Sing:

**They'll Know We Are Christians**, *The Worship Hymnal* #385; CCLI # 26997