

DEALING WITH PERSECUTION

Equipment List

- Projector and AV
- Bible
- Flip-chart paper and pens
- *Would you rather?* pdf

Hear The Story

A youth group in India were gathering for praise and worship when their meeting was stormed by a group of militant Hindus. Maggie, 24, said, "We stopped worshipping. My brother Paul asked one of the intruders what was wrong. The intruder started punching Paul in the face. Everyone, men, women and children, were attacked and beaten."



The assailants were from the local neighbourhood and the attack is understood to have been pre-planned. This is just one of a number of attacks experienced by Christians in recent years in India, by militant Hindus who want to stop Christians practising their faith.

Icebreaker

Gather the group in the middle of the room. Using the *Would you rather?* pdf ask the young people to move to either side of the room to indicate which option they have chosen. When everyone has chosen (no one is allowed to stay in the middle), ask them to explain why they have chosen that option. Once people have shared, people can switch sides if someone has won them over with their argument.

Discussion

Ask the group to imagine such an attack happened to them.

Suggested questions:

- How would you feel?
- How would you respond?
- Do you think your response would make the situation better or worse?

Input

The Bible gives us three strategies to deal with persecution:

Endure: Acts 16:25-36

Questions: What does it mean to endure persecution? Why do you think sometimes Christians are put in a position of suffering and hardship? Have you ever experienced suffering or conflict that you need to work through?

Avoid: Acts 9:23-25

Questions: When is it ok to run away from conflict or persecution? How can you know when you are meant to stay and face something and when you should avoid the situation?