

# Tenets of Our Faith: Conviction

## Icebreaker:

Have you ever stood up for something you believed in, even when others didn't agree? How did people respond to you afterward?

## Discussion:

- 1) *How important is it to have beliefs you won't compromise on? Should they be expressed openly, or kept personal? Why?*
- 2) *What would you call beliefs that you refuse to compromise?*
- 3) *What is conviction? Why does it matter?*
- 4) *Why do you think people sometimes stay silent about what they believe? What makes it difficult to stand firm in conviction?*
- 5) *How do you believe we get it back?*

**Romans 14:5; Acts 7:54-55**

## Edification:

- In the book of Galatians, Paul recounts his endeavor to confront who some would deem the highest-ranking authority in the church (**Galatians 2:11-21**). While Peter was no foe, Paul had received the revelation of this gospel from Jesus himself (**Galatians 1:11-12**). Confident in what had been imparted, he stood on conviction when it would have been easier to defer to those who had the loudest voice or even the most influence in the room.
- Conviction is associated with both conscious and courage. A man like David reveals his response to conviction when he is confronted with his sin against Uriah. In true fashion of those who live by conviction, he repented and took ownership. David also stands against one of the mightiest warriors recorded in Scripture. As the days grew weary for Israel, David stood upon the courage of his convictions and said, "...who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? ...I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee..." (**1 Samuel 17:26, 45-46**)
- Many have stopped contending because the effort required to maintain conviction exceeds what they are willing to carry. Standing on conviction requires resolve and discipline, traits formed through adversity and hardship. Most pursue comfort, while God's people are called to forsake this world's treasures for the one to come.
- Men and women must again walk in the Spirit, being full as Stephen was on the day he was stoned for the message he preached. His conviction in the gospel compelled him to speak, even at the cost of his life, because truth held greater weight than self-preservation.
- When conviction meets conscious, it will produce one of two responses, repentance or rebellion. It is here we see rebellion take root as scripture records, "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God..." (**Acts 7:54-55**)
- We must hold fast the profession of our faith (**Hebrews 10:23**) no matter the cost, allowing the light of God's Spirit to shine forth, bringing conviction to a world in desperate need of light.