

THE BOOK OF  
**ACTS**  
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Acts 4: 1-31

Message + Mission + Multiply

## Acts 4:1 NIV

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*The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.*



# Question

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Who were the priests?

# Priests

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The priests were the ones who officiated at all the temple sacrifices.

There were 24 groups of priests and each group served for 2 weeks a year in the temple offering sacrifices in the morning and the evening.



# Question

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Who was the captain  
of the temple guards?

# Captain of the Temple Guards

The temple was strictly policed. The Jewish leaders did not tolerate disorder, so there were temple guards who policed the temple. The Captain of the temple guards would be similar to the Chief of Police.



# Question

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Who were the  
Sadducees?

# Sadducees

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The Sadducees were in charge of the entire temple operation and the priests worked under their leadership. They only believed the Pentateuch was inspired by God, and since there was nothing in the Pentateuch about resurrection, they did not believe in the resurrection of the dead.



## Acts 4: 2 NIV

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*They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.*

# Question

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What were they doing  
that had them so  
greatly disturbed?



## Acts 3:14 NIV

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*You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.*

## Acts 3:15 NIV

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*You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.*



## Acts 3:16 NIV

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*By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.*

## Acts 3:18 NIV

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*But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.*



## Acts 3:19 NIV

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*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,*

## Acts 4: 2 NIV

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They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.



## Acts 4: 3 NIV

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They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.

# Question

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Do you think the crowd would be afraid to follow Jesus after seeing Peter and John arrested?



## Acts 4: 4 NIV

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*But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.*

## Acts 4: 5-6 NIV

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*The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family.*



## Acts 4: 7 NIV

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*They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them:*

# Question

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Do you think Peter and John would ever believe they would be given the opportunity to speak to powerful leaders such as these men?



## Acts 4: 7 NIV

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*They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: “By what power or what name did you do this?”*

# Question

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What a perfect  
question! Who does  
this show us is in  
control?



## Acts 4: 8 NIV

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*Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them:  
“Rulers and elders of the people!*

## Acts 4: 9-10 NIV

*If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,*



## Acts 4: 9-10 NIV

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*then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.*

# Acts 4: 11-12 NIV

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*Jesus is*

*“the stone you builders  
rejected,*

*which has become the  
cornerstone.’*

*(Psalm 118:22)*



## Acts 4: 11-12 NIV

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”*

# Question

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Where did this  
boldness come from?



# Acts 4: 8 NIV

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Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people!

## Acts 4:13 NIV

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*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*



# Question

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What does it mean  
that they saw the  
courage of Peter and  
John?

# Question

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How did this group of  
the elite view Peter  
and John?



# Acts 4:13 NIV

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When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were **unschooled**, **ordinary men**, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

# Question

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Is that how  
Christians are viewed  
today?



# Question

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Who do they  
contribute this  
courage to?

# Acts 4:13 NIV

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When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.



## Acts 4: 14-15 NIV

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*But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.*

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Note the courage of  
the healed man that  
was once lame!



## Acts 4:16 NIV

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*“What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.*

## Acts 4:17 NIV

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*But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”*



## John MacArthur Quote

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"The early believers had to be commanded to be quiet about Jesus; modern believers have to be commanded to say something about Him."

## Acts 4:18 NIV

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*Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.*



# Question

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What was the main thing they wanted Peter and John to stop doing?

# Question

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Do you think they felt they solved their problem and Peter and John would no longer speak about Jesus?



# Acts 4:19 NIV

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*But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!"*

## Acts 4: 20 NIV

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*As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”*



# Question

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This is a well crafted response, who is more powerful man or God?

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Please turn to:  
1 Peter 2: 13-14



# 1 Peter 2: 13-14 NIV

*Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.*

# Question

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Did Peter change his  
mind?



## Acts 4: 21-22 NIV

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*After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.*

## Acts 4: 23 NIV

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*On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.*



# Question

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Do you think it is unusual that Peter and John went back and told the Church about their threats to keep quiet about Jesus?

# Question

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What was the  
response of the  
Church?



## Acts 4: 24 NIV

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When they heard this, **they raised their voices together in prayer** to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.

## Acts 4: 25-26 NIV

*You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:  
“Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.*



## Acts 4: 27 NIV

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*Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.*

# Acts 4: 28 NIV

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*They did what your power  
and will had decided  
beforehand should  
happen.*



# Question

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Who is Peter saying  
is in control?

## Acts 4: 29 NIV

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*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.*



# Question

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What are they asking  
God to consider and  
what are they asking  
for God to give them?

# Acts 4: 29 NIV

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Now, Lord, consider their  
threats and enable your  
servants to speak your  
word with great  
boldness.



# Acts 4: 30 NIV

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*Stretch out your hand to  
heal and perform signs  
and wonders through the  
name of your holy servant  
Jesus.”*

## Acts 4: 31 NIV

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*After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*



# Question

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Are Christians  
persecuted in the  
world today?

# Question

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What are some  
examples?



LIVE AS CHRISTIAN  
DIE AS CHRISTIAN  
PROUD TO BE   
CHRISTIAN



# Every Month (Open Doors)

- 255 Christians are killed
- 104 are abducted
- 180 Christian women are raped, sexually harassed or forced into marriage
- 66 churches are attacked
- 160 Christians are detained without trial and imprisoned





# Report: Christianity Most Persecuted Religion in 2016

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# EASTER 2017, CHRISTIANS 'MOST PERSECUTED GROUP IN THE WORLD'

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Resolving host...



# Christian persecution on the rise reveals 2018 World Watch List

By Beth Stolicker | January 17, 2018



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# Christian persecution set to rise 'sharply' in 2019, group warns

Caleb Parke | Fox News



		
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	<b>RAM 1500</b>	
		
<b>CHEVROLET</b>	<b>GMC SIERRA</b>	<b>CHEVROLET</b>



# Question

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Are Christians  
persecuted in the  
United States today?

# Question


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What are some  
examples?



# LGBT Groups Attacking Christians On Facebook Claiming Christian Posts As Hate Speech

By Meranda Devan

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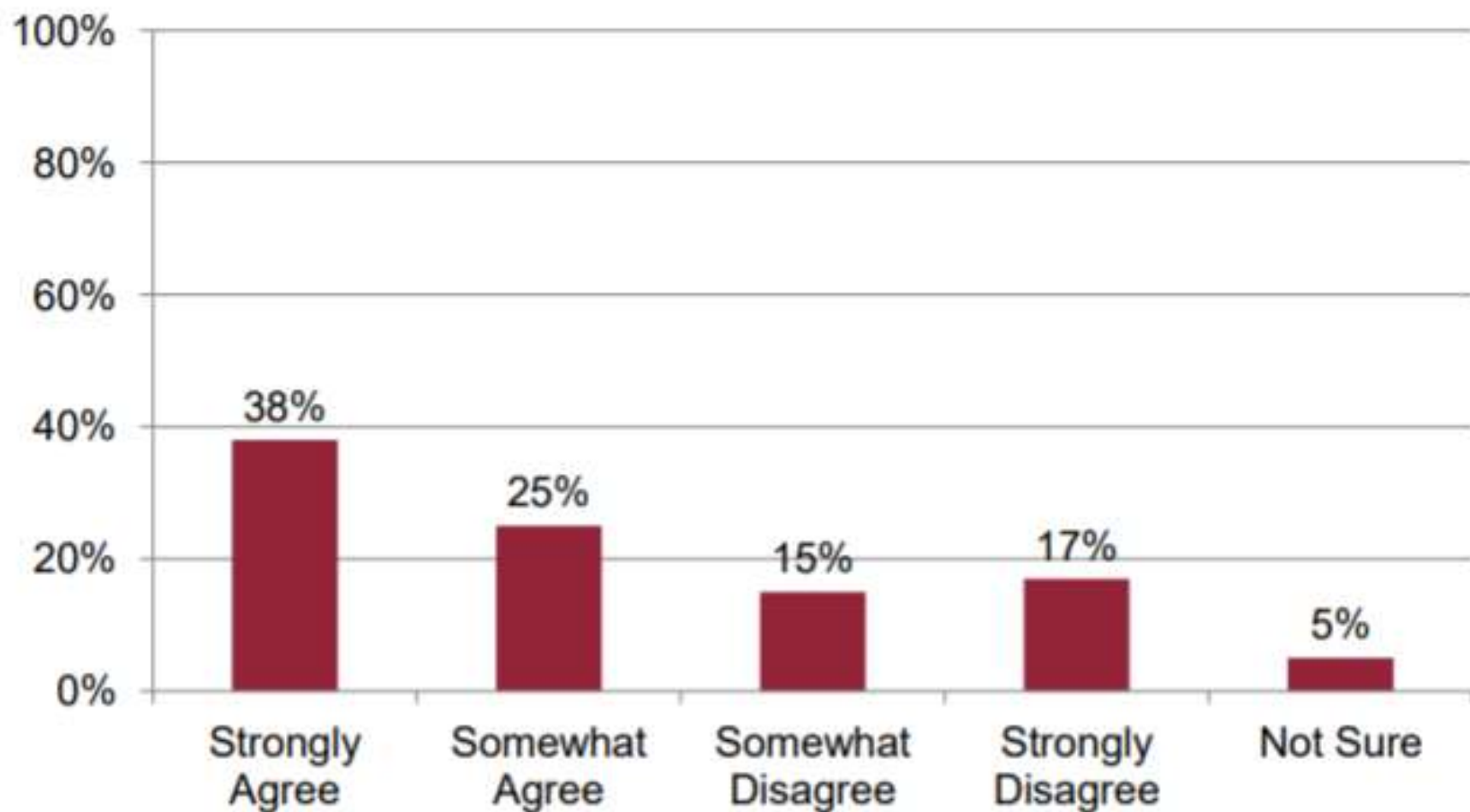
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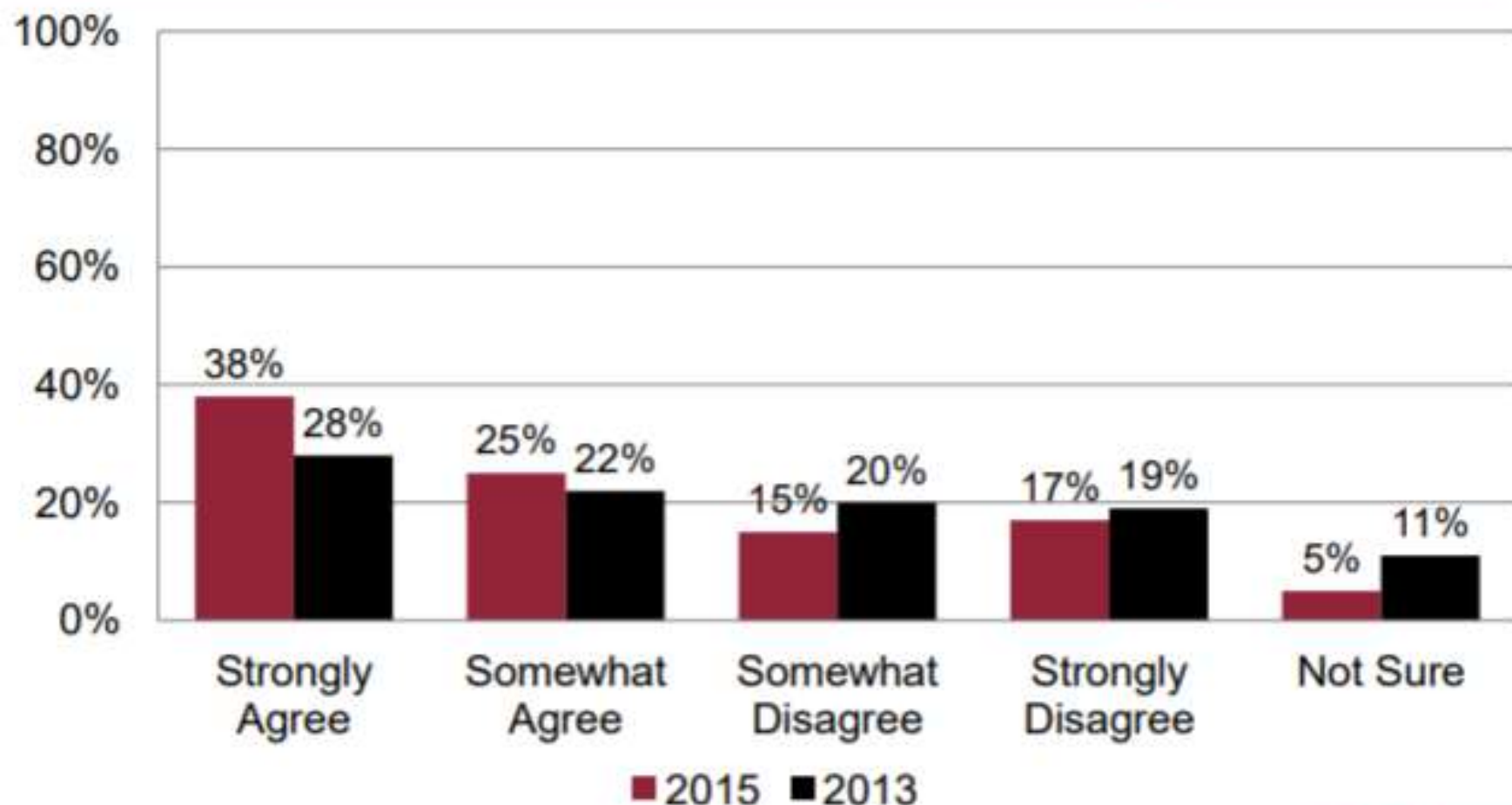
LGBT GROUPS

# 63% Americans agree that Christians increasingly are confronted with intolerance in America today





# “Christians increasingly are confronted by intolerance in America today.”



# Question

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Are Christians  
persecuted locally  
today?



# Question

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What are some  
examples?

# Knightstown removes cross from town Christmas tree

Fatima Hussein, IndyStar | Published 5:04 p.m. ET Dec. 12, 2016 | Updated 4:38 p.m. ET Dec. 15, 2016



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Knightstown officials removed a cross atop the town's Christmas tree because the Henry County community could not win what was expected to be a costly lawsuit filed by the ACLU.

"It is with regret and sadness that the Knightstown Town Council has had the cross removed from the Christmas tree on the town square and is expected to approve a resolution at the next council meeting stating they will not return the cross to the tree," the

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# Question

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How should we  
respond to  
persecution?

Next week

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Please read

Acts 4: 32-5: 11