



**August 2, 2020 - Overcoming Opposition**  
**Ezra 4-5 - Mark Mitchell**

1. Mark mentions four words: Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity (VUCA). Which of these four words resonate most with you in this season?
2. What opposition if any do you personally face as you seek to live out your Christian life?
3. Read 4:1-3. Are there some areas in your life where you are tempted to compromise your spiritual beliefs for the sake of expediency?
4. Read 4:4-5. Why is this temptation to compromise such a powerful force that pulls on churches?
5. Read 5:1-2. How does the Word of God from the prophets and apostles help God's people overcome discouragement? Describe a circumstance when the

Word of God became powerful and practical to you in a season of discouragement?

6. What do we need to know to become good encouragers?
7. Read 5:3-4. How does God use opposition and crisis in our lives to accomplish his purposes?
8. Describe a time when you felt “sheep dipped” by God. With the huge gap between our Great Shepherd and his sheep, what can we understand and not understand as we go through difficult seasons in life?
9. How does the picture of the “Eye of God” and the Doctrine of God’s Sovereignty help us during hard times? How can your group specifically pray and support you in the season you are in right now?