Introduction: *Deal with the concept of rejection.*

State something like the following to your group: “Consider a time in your life when you experienced rejection, whether professionally or personally, perhaps even in a church setting. Think about how it caused you to increase in doubt and anxiety.”

Share from the following business article “5 Ways Mentally Strong People Deal with Rejection,” briefly explaining each of the five ways: [https://www.inc.com/amy-morin/5-ways-mentally-strong-people-deal-with-rejection.html](https://www.inc.com/amy-morin/5-ways-mentally-strong-people-deal-with-rejection.html)

Then put something like the following into your own words: “You’ve probably experienced rejection too. It can hold a devastating and lasting effect. However, today we’re going to look at the rejection that Jesus faced in His hometown and consider how it did not change His purpose or resolve.”

**Point 1: Connect Jesus’ roots with those of present-day celebrities.**

Before discussing Point 1, say something like the following: “Nazareth wasn’t cosmopolitan, trendy, or even charming. It was viewed as a lower-class town in the time of Jesus.” Share some information about Nazareth from this website: [https://www.jesus-story.net/about-nazareth/](https://www.jesus-story.net/about-nazareth/)

Continue by saying the following: “Jesus of Nazareth isn’t the only example we can think of in terms of a famous person coming from a small town.” Share a few of the following small towns that were home to the listed celebrities: [https://www.thetravel.com/20-small-towns-around-the-world-that-gave-us-a-list-celebs/](https://www.thetravel.com/20-small-towns-around-the-world-that-gave-us-a-list-celebs/)

Then put the following into your own words: “Just as in the case of these present-day famous people, the Israelite world was shocked to see that Jesus—from Nazareth!—was making a name for Himself as a teacher and prophet.”
Point 2: Point group members to a biblical outlook on rejection.

After discussing the passage for Point 2, ask, “How does this passage about Jesus encourage you to persist in your walk of faith even when people around you may reject you?”

Share a few of the stories from the following website that tells of famous people who were painfully rejected before finding success in their fields: https://thoughtcatalog.com/rachel-hodin/2013/10/35-famous-people-who-were-painfully-rejected-before-making-it-big/

Say something like the following: “Today’s Bible passage isn’t about persevering in our writing or acting or jobs; it’s about persevering in our faith, love, and zeal for God.” Encourage group members to speak words of hope and edification to friends sitting nearby.

Conclusion: Promote giving and receiving.

Close the session by showing a clip from the movie Turbo (1 minute, 27 seconds): https://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/turbo/never-give-up

Put the following into your own words: “Sometimes we’re the snail in the race: we’re weary, we’re discouraged, and we need encouragement to keep up the fight. Sometimes we’re like his brother riding the crow: we’re there to speak truth and hope to our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Encourage group members to look for ways in the coming where they seem themselves in both positions, giving and accepting encouragement.

Teaching Tip of the Week

All group members must be challenged to do something with what they have learned. If you find your group growing stale or dying, it might be because the same people are answering all the questions, which means not everyone is being engaged during group time. We must step away from lecture-style teaching at times in order to allow more group participation. Group participation is a great item to add to your list of values in a philosophy of teaching.