

STUDY GUIDE

MAY 29, 2022

ACTS | THINK. CAREFULLY.

ACTS 5:12-42

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group from each section below.

WORK AHEAD | HOW CAN I COME PREPARED FOR MY GROUP?

1. Read Acts 5:12-42.
2. Look over your message notes. What was surprising or insightful? What questions were raised?
3. If time allows, look ahead at the "Digging In" section and think through how you would contribute to your group discussion.

FOR STARTERS | THOUGHTS TO GET US ON THE SAME PAGE

1. What's one mind-blowing idea that's changed your life?

DIGGING IN | DISCOVERING WHAT GOD SAYS IN SCRIPTURE

Ideas are blowing up around the world.

This story is about the importance of the "teachings" (philosophy, ideas, or framework) about Jesus and the new kind of life that He makes possible.

1. Read the passage again. How many times do you see the word "teach" or "teaching"?
2. Read Acts 2:42, 5:42, 11:26, 13:12, 17:19 and 20:20. How did people respond to the Jesus teachings?
3. Now read Acts 4:2, 5:8, 15:1, 21:21 and 21:28. What kind of responses do you see in these passages?
4. Talk about the power of the gospel message. How have you seen people respond positively or negatively?
5. What are some of the other big "ideas" or "gospels" that are exploding in our world today? How does the gospel of Jesus compare? How is it different?

The world's most famous skeptic.

Gamaliel's speech in verses 34-39 is one of the longest quotes from a non-Christian in the New Testament.

1. How were the priests, Sadducees and pharisees feeling about this upstart Jesus gathering in their temple? (See verses 17 and 33).
2. What "grid" did Gamaliel give to his fellow skeptics to evaluate the Jesus movement?
3. Now we have 20 centuries of evidence to apply Gamaliel's line of thought. What do you think he would say now?
4. How is this helpful for skeptics and thinkers today?

The joy of being scrutinized, disgraced and judged unfairly.

This is the first story in the Bible where Christians are persecuted for telling others about Jesus.

1. Look at verses 12-14. What was the tension these early believers must have felt as they gathered publicly in the temple courts to hear the Jesus story?
2. Where do you feel that kind of tension? At work? In your marriage?
3. Look in verses 15, 20 and 26 and talk about what it looks like to continue to gather in Jesus' name and to talk about the Jesus story in spite of that tension.
4. How does this encourage or challenge you?
5. The story ends with the apostle's joy. Why do you think they were happy instead of discouraged?

BRINGING IT HOME | APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Personal Reflection

Where do you find yourself hesitant to talk with others about the new life you have because of Jesus?

Group Application

Take some time to pray that God would strengthen you, your church leadership and believers around the world who are facing persecution for telling the Jesus story.

DIGGING DEEPER | IDEAS TO KEEP GROWING DURING THE WEEK

1. Have you ever wondered what the world would be like if the Jesus movement had been snuffed out? Read [How Christianity Changed the World](#) for a Christian perspective, or [Dominion](#) for a non-Christian view.
2. Our Study Guide team wants your feedback! Please drop me a note to let me know how we can make these guides more helpful for your group: rmorrison@doorcreekchurch.org.