

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday May 17, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 5:17–42**, God is not inviting people into a safe, comfortable faith that avoids sacrifice or opposition. He is inviting ordinary people to boldly participate in His unstoppable mission. Many people wrestle with fear, insecurity, or the pressure to stay quiet about their faith in everyday life. We often want following Jesus to fit neatly into our plans instead of fully surrendering to His purpose. This passage reminds us that Jesus is still moving, still transforming lives, and still calling His people to obediently join His work.

Main Passage:

Acts 5:17–42

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unstoppable

READ ALOUD

Acts 5:17–42

Opening Question: What is something you were hesitant to step into at first, but later became thankful you did?

- What stands out to you most in this passage?
- What do you notice about the apostles' response to opposition and suffering?
- Why do you think the apostles continued preaching about Jesus even after being threatened and punished?
- Where might fear, comfort, or distraction keep people from fully participating in what God is doing?

APPLY

- What part of this passage challenges you personally the most right now?
- Where do you sense God inviting you to be more bold or obedient in everyday life?
- What would it look like for you to participate more intentionally in God's mission this week?

RESPOND

- What is one practical step you can take this week to live more openly for Jesus?
- Who is one person you can encourage, invite, pray for, or share Jesus with this week?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Read Acts 5:12–16

- What do these verses reveal about how God was moving through the early church?
- How do these verses connect to the opposition that begins later in the chapter?
- What do you learn about the purpose of miracles, healing, and bold witness in the early church?

PRAY

Spend time thanking God for allowing us to be part of His unstoppable movement through Jesus and the gospel. Ask Him to give your group courage and boldness to obey Him even when it feels uncomfortable, costly, or difficult. Pray for hearts that would say “yes” to whatever God is calling each person into right now. Ask God to help you live faithfully at work, at school, at home, and in everyday relationships as people who carry the message of Jesus. Pray for opportunities this week to encourage others, make disciples, and help more people discover and follow Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 5:17–42

- Why do you think the apostles kept talking about Jesus even when it was difficult?
- What does this story teach us about obeying God?
- Who are some people we can encourage or pray for this week?
- What is one way our family can help others know Jesus?

For younger children: Jesus is always with us and helps us obey Him, even when we feel nervous or afraid.

For older kids or students: Where is it hardest for you to live openly for Jesus right now, and what would courage look like there?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 6:1–7
- **Day 2:** Acts 6:8–15
- **Day 3:** Acts 7:1–16
- **Day 4:** Acts 7:17–36
- **Day 5:** Acts 7:37–53

What's Going On?

Acts 5 takes place during the rapid growth of the early church after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. The apostles are boldly preaching about Jesus, healing people, and calling others to repentance. As the movement grows, opposition from religious leaders also increases.

Even after arrest, threats, and public punishment, the apostles continue proclaiming Jesus because they believe obedience to God matters more than approval from people. This passage shows that the gospel movement was never built on comfort or popularity, but on faithfulness to Jesus.

A Bit of Background

Flogging in the first century was a brutal public punishment designed not only to cause physical pain but also to bring humiliation and shame. Jewish law limited flogging to forty lashes, so people were typically given thirty-nine to avoid accidentally exceeding the limit. Religious leaders used flogging to publicly disgrace someone and damage their credibility or influence.

That is why the apostles' response is so surprising. Instead of hiding in fear or giving up, they left rejoicing because they were counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus. In a culture where public honor and shame mattered deeply, the apostles valued faithfulness to Jesus more than public approval. Their willingness to suffer became powerful evidence that their faith was real and that the gospel was worth everything.