



# ACTS: LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 5:12–42

Week of August 27, 2023

**Start at 9:50–10:00**

**Belong:** *Use 5–10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Ask the question[s] below:

- **If you could interview anyone in history, who would you choose and why? What one or two questions would you ask?**

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**10:00–10:05**

**Believe:** *Use 5 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have a group member read **Acts 5:12–21a; 27–32** aloud.

- **As a group list all the good things that were happening at the temple.**
  - **Are these things that are happening today or did these things only happen in the 1st century?**

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**10:05–10:15**

**Build:** *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

Last week we spent time on the discipline of Ananias and Sapphira. This week, we see a picture of the health of the church and how the apostles – empowered by the Holy Spirit – fearlessly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. This leads to their arrest by jealous religious leaders who are beginning to feel threatened. However, an angel helps the apostles escape, directing them to continue speaking about "the words of this Life." Despite attempts to silence them, the apostles boldly preach in the temple the next day.

The leaders arrest them again but cautiously due to public opinion. The apostles are commanded to stop their teachings, yet Peter defies this order, emphasizing obedience to God over human authority. The religious leaders become furious and murderous, but a respected figure named Gamaliel advises caution, suggesting that the movement's fate depends on divine will. The apostles are beaten and threatened but released. Despite the hardships, they rejoice in their suffering and continue to teach about Jesus with unwavering boldness, driven by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**If the government told you that you could not pray, show your Bible, or talk about God in public, what would you do?**

**10:15-10:35**

**Become:** *Use about 20 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

Considering all that we have read so far in the first 5 chapters of Acts, what reasons would the new Christians have for staying away from Solomon's Portico? **[vs. 13]**

Look back at **Acts 1:8**. Do we see it being fulfilled in **Acts 5:16**?

- Do you think the Apostles realized this?
- Do you think that most of us would recognize that God was allowing His Holy Spirit to move at FBC Portland? *Have you seen the Spirit move at FBC?*

Why do you think that the high priest and the Sadducees were filled with jealousy? **[vs. 17]**

- Do you think that jealousy still exists in the church today?
- If so, in what ways?

In **vs. 21**, did you notice how quickly the Apostles obeyed. Are we quick to obey what God commands? Why or why not? How can we change in this area?

If we're not facing opposition or persecution for our faith, at some level, does that say anything about us or our Christian walk?

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**10:35/ - Class ends at 10:45**

**Begin:** *Use the last 10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

**How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

**At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:**

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

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## **Additional Resources:**

**Blue Letter Bible: Acts 5:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

**Precept Austin: Acts 5:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

