



What to Know

WE ARE
JUMPING BACK INTO
THE BOOK OF ACTS

THIS IS A
FOUR WEEK SERIES

THE BOOK OF ACTS
CHRONICLES THE
EARLY YEARS OF THE
CHURCH AND IS
RECORDED BY LUKE,
THE PHYSICIAN.

THE "MOODY BIBLE
COMMENTARY" COVERS
THIS SERIES ON PAGES
1682-1689

WEEK 1 - ACTS 4:32-5:11

WEEK 2 - ACTS 5:12-42

WEEK 3 - ACTS 6:1-8

WEEK 4 - ACTS 6:8-7:53

What to Do

I hope you know that I desire each individual Life Group to operate as a unique family unit. A Life Group is made up of individuals that contribute to the overall health and function of the group. But no two Life Groups will look the same, just like no two families will look the same.

Because of this, one group may be in a season where deep Bible study is desired and easily achievable. While another group may be in a season where the most you can do is check in on one another and briefly pray because of the busyness of life.

The goal of Life Groups is to help each other learn to live the life that God through Christ has called us to. As with nature, our lives have seasons in which growth, rest, or even death is a natural part of the season. If we are trying to plant flowers in the dead of winter, we will be angry and frustrated because they won't bloom. Knowing what season you're in will help you as you plan and meet each week as a group.

For the rest of this semester, I want us to work hard at meeting our group members where they are, finding out what season they are in so that our group life reflects what they need the most. This document is only a guide, something to help you lead, not tell you everything.

Persecution

Acts 5:12-42

Opening Questions:

How do we determine if something is authentic, whether that is money, clothing, or a person?

Why is it important to authenticate such things?

Read: Acts 5:12-42. *You may also consider reading Acts 5:12-42 from multiple translations.*

Discuss: Acts 5:12 says that many signs and wonders were done among the people at the temple in Jerusalem. Why would it have been important for people to see signs and wonders at this point in the Church's development? What types of signs and wonders take place (use the rest of this short section to help you discover the answer)? Do you seek out signs and wonders today in order to see if God is at work? Why or why not?

Verses 17 through 42 detail the experience of the apostles as a result of their preaching and teaching. Why were the apostles arrested (see verse 17)? What role has jealousy played in the story of Jesus and the Church? Has jealousy (because of faith in Jesus) ever been a factor in the way that you were treated? If so, what is the story and how did it affect you?

An angel of God opened the doors of the prison and brought the apostle out. What was the reason for God orchestrating these events? What other impressive events did God orchestrate so that the gospel could go forth?

Verse 20 says "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." In other words, they were commanded to tell people about salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. When was the last time that you shared the gospel? What was that experience like? Is there a person that is on your heart or mind that you need to share "all the words of this Life" with? How can this group encourage you to share the gospel or even pray for you?

The Sanhedrin gathered together to put the apostles on trial, not realizing they were no longer in prison. When it was discovered that the apostles were preaching in the temple, they were then brought in to talk with the court. The text tells us that the apostles were not brought in by force for fear of the officers being stoned to death. Why might bringing the apostles in by force cause a public disturbance and violent acts? Why might the apostles come quietly and submissively to the Sanhedrin?

The high priest began to explain the charges and issues with the apostles beginning in verses 27-28. In chapter 4 of Acts, Peter and John were strictly charged with not speaking about Jesus (4:18, 21). Peter responds to the high priest that the apostles must obey God rather than men. In what way(s) have you had to obey God rather than humanity in your life? If you have not had that experience, why do you think that is? How are you currently preparing to speak God's truth with vigor rather than succumb to pressures by people?

In verse 34, we are introduced to a man named Gamaliel. He is the teacher of Saul of Tarsus (the apostle Paul). Thomas Constable said "Gamaliel was able to direct the Sanhedrin as he did through his personal influence, not because he had any superior official authority within that body." How did Gamaliel's voice of reason help the apostles in this situation? Where did Gamaliel still fall short in his words and belief?

The apostles were beaten for their refusal to shy away from speaking the gospel of Jesus. This week, how will you seek to be bold in the name of Jesus?