



Unit 31 | Session 1

THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

Acts 5

The apostles were doing many signs and more and more people believed in the Lord. People carried those who were sick into the street. All of them were healed.

The high priest and other religious leaders arrested Jesus' apostles. But an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought out the apostles. The angel told them, "Go and stand in the temple, and tell the people all about this life."

That next day, the high priest and other religious leaders ordered their servants to go to the jail. But when they went inside, the apostles weren't there. Then someone said, "The apostles are teaching in the temple!" So the religious leaders said, "Didn't we tell you to stop teaching about Jesus?"

Peter responded, "We must obey God rather than people. God raised Jesus to life after you killed Him on the cross.

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Peter and the other apostles. But Gamaliel told them, "Men of Israel, you have to be careful. If their words are from God, you won't be able to stop them."

They beat them and told them to stop talking about Jesus. Then they let them go free. The apostles left, praising God for being counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus. The apostles continued to preach about Jesus.

Christ Connection: Jesus calls His followers to be faithful and tell others about Him, even in times of trouble. Just as Jesus experienced rejection and suffering, so will His followers. We can have joy in suffering, knowing God uses our suffering, like Christ's, for His glory.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

» Number the events from today's Bible story in the correct order from 1–8. For help, review Acts 5:12-42.

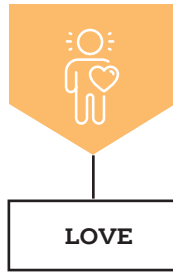
- ___ An angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail.
- ___ The religious leaders beat Jesus' apostles and told them to stop talking about Jesus.
- ___ When Peter and John were released from jail, they went to the temple to preach about Jesus.
- ___ The apostles praised God that they were worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus.
- ___ The servants of the high priests and religious leaders discovered the apostles were no longer in jail.
- ___ Gamaliel warned the religious leaders to be careful.
- ___ Peter said, "We must obey God rather than people."
- ___ The high priests and religious leaders were jealous of the apostles, so they put them in jail.

» What does this story teach us about God?

» How was Jesus faithful even when He faced suffering?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus calls His followers to be faithful and tell others about Him, even in times of trouble. Just as Jesus experienced rejection and suffering, so will His followers. We can have joy in suffering, knowing God uses our suffering, like Christ's, for His glory.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

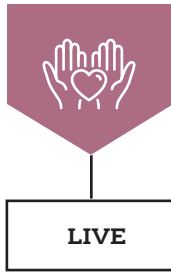
» In today's story, how did the Holy Spirit give the apostles power?

» Why can we still rejoice in suffering?

» How can we be faithful to share the good news right now?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus calls His followers to be faithful and tell others about Him, even in times of trouble. Just as Jesus experienced rejection and suffering, so will His followers. We can have joy in suffering, knowing God uses our suffering, like Christ's, for His glory.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

» Find Isaiah 53:5 in your Bible and write the words below.

» Write a prayer to God, asking Him for perseverance to obey Him no matter what difficulties you may face.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

Acts 1:8

Romans 5:3-5

Romans 8:28

James 1:2-4

1 Peter 3:15

1 Peter 4:13