

# The Apostles Were Arrested

## Acts 5

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. God uses everything for His glory.

### Big Picture Question:

*Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.*

### Key Passage phrase:

Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

## Leader Bible Study

In Acts 5, we find the apostles performing many signs and wonders through the power and grace they received from the Holy Spirit. In particular, the healing power of the Holy Spirit displayed through Peter was so compelling that people laid the sick in the path of his shadow. United in purpose, the apostles also continued their mission to share the gospel with those around them, and as a result, they filled Jerusalem with their teaching! However, with the favor of their community came the opposition of the Jewish leaders who grew jealous of the apostles' ministry.

How did the early church navigate the ups and downs of their ministry experiences? What choices did they make when faced with rejection and suffering?

Instead of cowering to the demands of the religious leaders to stop sharing the gospel, the apostles rejoiced in being counted worthy of mistreatment in Jesus' name. They continued to be faithful to Jesus' command to share the gospel and, leaving directly from the presence of the Sanhedrin, they made a daily practice of preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ in the temple and from house to house.

Even when the apostles experienced persecution and shameful mistreatment, the power of God at work was evidenced in their boldness to continue to preach the name of Jesus. Amidst many uncertainties and challenging circumstances, they remained steadfastly assured of the power of the gospel to save anyone who believes. On this truth they placed their hope as they rejoiced in their suffering.

As you prepare to teach this session to your kids, consider all that the apostles endured as they sought to share God's Word so that people might hear and believe in the name of Jesus. If you find yourself in a difficult circumstance, thank God for their example of endurance despite times of trouble. Help the preschoolers you teach know that sometimes hard or sad things happen, but Jesus is always with us. We, too, can count it all joy as we face trials and trust that Jesus is worthy of giving our lives to.

### People TO KNOW

**Gamaliel I:** a highly regarded Pharisee who was a member of the Sanhedrin and teacher of Paul (Acts 22:3)