

# Acts 5:12-42

## July 13, 2025



### **CONVERSATION STARTERS**

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

### **INTRODUCTION**

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

#### **Jail Break**

Items Needed: Rubber ball

Setup:

- Place students into two teams.
- Position teams on opposite sides of a gym or an open area.

How to Play:

- The game begins with one player throwing the ball to someone on the opposite team.
- Before throwing, they must call out the name of a player on the opposing team.
- Anyone on the opposing team can receive the ball. If the receiver catches the ball, nothing happens.
- If the receiver drops the ball, the player whose name was called is sent to "jail" on the sidelines.

How to Escape Jail:

- Players in jail can be freed when a teammate throws the ball and, instead of

calling a name, shouts “Jail Break!”

- If the opposing player fails to catch the ball, the player from their team who has been in jail the longest returns to the game.

Winning:

- The game continues until only one team remains or until time is called.
- The team with the most remaining players at the end wins.

Teaching Moment:

We played a fun jail break game, and today in our reading in Acts, we are going to read about a real jail break in the Bible! When the apostles were arrested, an angel broke them out so they could keep telling people about Jesus with boldness.

**What does it mean to be bold?**

**How have we seen the apostles be bold so far?**

## ***DISCUSSION***

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 5:12-42.

**How did the apostles display boldness in this passage?**

**How does being bold for God show our faith in Him?**

**What can we learn from the apostles’ example?**

**What are some ways you would expect the disciples to respond because of their recent experiences?**

**How did their obedience highlight the truth of their message?**

**What can we learn from the way they prioritized acting as Jesus’s witnesses over anything else?**

**What argument did Gamaliel make in verses 33-42?**

**What can we learn about God’s purposes and plans from this passage?**

## ***GOING DEEPER***

**Why is boldness a challenge when we act in our own strength?**

How does relying on God's strength change our ability to live boldly?

### **APPLICATION**

How do we struggle to obey God rather than people today? If you feel comfortable sharing, what is something God is calling you to do that you are nervous about because of what other people might think?

What can we learn from the apostles' response to suffering because of their faith in Jesus?

Who do you need to proclaim the truth of Jesus to this week?

### **PRAYER**

Thank God for seeking and saving lost, ordinary people like you and me. Ask Him to give you and your group boldness as you go out and share the good news with people who don't know Jesus.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

*Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.*

July 20, 2025 --- Acts 6:1-7

### **COMMENTARY**

**Acts 5:12-42**

**Apostles' Miracles (5:12-16).** The final summary on the life of the early church focuses on the power of its witness. The apostles were known for their miracles and their testimony to Christ. They witnessed regularly in Solomon's Portico, a colonnaded area along the wall of the temple. The people's response was mixed. Some kept an awestruck distance from the Christian manifestation of the Spirit's power. Others joined them, and the Christian community continued to grow.

**Apostles before the Council (5:17-42).** The apostles' bold witness in the temple area was bound to catch the notice of the authorities, who had strictly

forbidden them to witness to Christ (4:18). This time all the apostles were arrested and held in jail overnight awaiting a hearing before the Sanhedrin.

**Arrest, Escape, and Re-arrest (5:17–26).** God was very much with His messengers, and His angel released them miraculously in the night. The apostles did not flee. They remained in the area and witnessed to the people who gathered at the temple at daybreak. Ironically, the Sanhedrin had no one to try at its morning session. The apostles were finally located, back at the very witnessing for which they were supposed to be on trial. Their miraculous release was undeniable, and so they were led “without force” to the Sanhedrin.

**Appearance before the Sanhedrin (5:27–40).** The majority of the Sanhedrin were ready to order the death of the apostles for continuing their witness. But one of the Pharisaic minority urged moderation. He was Gamaliel, a leading rabbi, the teacher of Paul (22:3). He cited two former movements which claimed God’s guidance but came to ruin and Gamaliel assured the Sanhedrin that the Christian movement would also fail if it lacked God’s blessing. On the other hand, they could not stop it if God were behind it. The Sanhedrin heeded Gamaliel’s advice and released the apostles, but not before giving them the flogging prescribed by Jewish law (thirty-nine lashes on the bare flesh with a leather whip).

**Release and Witness (5:41–42).** Though once again forbidden by the Sanhedrin to witness, the apostles continued their bold testimony to Christ. They were assured by now that although they might suffer disgrace and bodily punishment, God’s word would prosper.