



## Welcome + Opening Prayer

### Acts 5:27-42

*See passage printed on the back of this page.*

#### THEMATIC OVERVIEW

*How can we find courage to "obey God and not men"?*

### Explore + Apply

1. In the prequel to Acts (Luke's gospel), Peter denies knowing Jesus out of fear for his life (Luke 22:54-62). How does seeing Peter's response to a similar life-threatening situation in Acts 5:28 encourage you? What is a time you have experienced your inadequacy in leadership or in some key moment that made you wish you had more courage at that moment of decision?
2. The word "leader" is used in verse 31 to describe Jesus. This same word is also used in Hebrews 2:10 to Jesus. John 13 describes Jesus washing his disciples feet, typically the job of the lowest servant. In these instances what do you notice about how Jesus is a different sort of leader than we are used to? How do you typically think of a leader?
3. How often do you receive care and service from Jesus? What does that look like for you? What impact does this or would it have in areas of your life that require courage? How do you receive care/love in a way that feels like care/love?

#### PRAYER GUIDELINES

*In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace as we enjoy a unique time of fellowship with God made possible through Christ's servant leadership.*

### Pray

- Praise God for His mercy and steadfast love for us - even when we have in so many instances lacked courage to obey Him and not men.
- Pray for one another in your practical struggle to obey God. Ask with the words of David in Psalm 119:32 that God would enlarge our hearts so we can run in his ways.
- Pray God's Kingdom come in our courageous service led by Christ in our community, city, and world.

#### GROUP SCHEDULE - FALL

*week of Nov 12  
week of Nov 26*

*end-of-quarter gathering:  
week of Dec 10*

*Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.*

## **Acts 5:27-42**

27 The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! 30 The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Leader and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

33 When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. 34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. 35 Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. 36 Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. 37 After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. 38 Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. 39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

40 His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.