

LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

citygroups

Spring 2023

Week of March 5th

Book of Acts

DISCUSSION FOCUS:

Read (Primary Text): Acts 5:17-42

Supporting Texts: Romans 8:31-39, Romans 5:1-5

MAIN IDEA: God is sovereign in His plan for salvation, achieved through the simplicity of the Gospel Message: Christ crucified and raised for the forgiveness of sins. In His sovereignty, He works all things together for the good of those who love Him.

OBSERVE

Read Acts 5:12-16.

According to verse 13, how did the people view the apostles? What was the result of the signs and wonders being performed?

- The people held them in high esteem
- more believers were being added to their number

Read Acts 5:17-32.

What was the response of the high priest and the Sadducees?

- They were filled with jealousy and arrested the apostles.

What did the angel tell the apostles to do after he freed them from prison?

- To go stand in the temple and speak to the people "all the words of this life."

Read Acts 5:33-42

What advice does Gamaliel give to the Sadducees? What is his reasoning?

- Be careful how you treat these men, "since if this is from man, it will fail, but if it is from God, you may be opposing not man but God."

What do Peter and the apostles do in response to the beating they received? What is their message?

- They rejoiced that they were counted worthy, went to the temple and from house to house teaching Jesus is the Christ.

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INTERPRET

Why were the Sadducees jealous of the apostles? What enraged them? (verse 33)

Why does Peter respond to the Sadducees' orders by saying, "We must obey God rather than men"?

Read Romans 8:31-39 How can this passage (particularly verses 31-32) give us hope?

What does this passage teach us about God's sovereignty?

What makes the Gospel so simple? And why might that give some hope and others to jealously/anger?

APPLY

Read Romans 5:1-5. Why did Peter and the apostles rejoice in their suffering? How/why can we remind ourselves that suffering for Christ is a joy?

Peter and the apostles were thrown into prison for sharing their faith. What are other costs we face when following Jesus?

Thinking about Let's Go!, what are some ways this initiative has challenged you to be more bold in your faith, trusting in the Lord's sovereignty, or rejoicing in the midst of suffering for Jesus? How has Let's Go! deepen your joy in the Lord?