

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 11, 2007

Passage: Acts 5:12-42

Memory Passage: Philippians 1:29

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 5:12-16.** What remarkable things were taking place through the apostles? Why are the apostles specified (2 Corinthians 12:12)? What does this tell us was the purpose of these signs and wonders (Hebrews 2:4)?

(b) Did these miracles result in church growth (Acts 5:13-14)? Did everyone want to join with them because of the signs and wonders? What made the people hesitant about joining with the disciples?

(c) In Acts 5:15, what kinds of strange miracles were taking place through Peter? Compare this with miracles that came through Paul in Acts 19:11-12.

(d) What do the following passages tell us about the focus of healing in the New Testament (James 5:13-16; Hebrews 12:12-13)? What is the primary concern?

(e) Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What was Paul's concern? What did he pray for? How did God answer? Does God always provide healing? What did Paul learn through this?

(f) What should be our confidence when praying for healing (Genesis 18:14; Jer. 32:17; Luke 1:37; Luke 18:27; Matthew 19:26)?

(g) *Family:* Read Acts 5:12-16 and talk together about healing. What can God heal? What should be our attitude whenever we pray for healing? How should we respond whenever we do not see God healing as we have prayed? Take time to pray for someone who needs the healing touch of Jesus.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 5:17-26.** How did the council respond to all that was being done through the hands of the apostles?

(b) How is their motivation/attitude described (also Acts 7:9; 13:45; 17:5)? How did these religious leaders deal with the disciples?

(c) What miracle happened as a result? What do the disciples do immediately after being released? What does this tell you about their priority? What does the angel call the gospel (Acts 5:18; 1 John 5:11-12; John 6:63; Philippians 2:15-17)?

(d) What concern did the guard have when they went to re-arrest the disciples (compare Matthew 14:5; Luke 20:19; Luke 22:2)?

(e) What does the Bible teach us about fearing men (Proverbs 29:5)? Who should we fear and what promise does He give us about His care for us (Luke 12:3-7)?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 5:17-26 and Luke 12:3-7. Discuss fearing people. Why do we fear what others will think about us? Why do we fear what they can do to us? How did the disciples respond to the threats of the Sanhedrin? Who did they fear? What promise of God's care for us ought to motivate us? Pray that God will give you boldness to stand for Him even when there is reason to fear.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 5:27-32.** What did the high priest accuse them of? Why were they upset?

(b) How did Peter respond? What should be our only basis for disobeying authorities?

(c) Peter accused them of murder but why did he say that Jesus died (Acts 5:31)? What had he said in Acts 3:19? What does he say about this in Acts 13:38-39?

(d) Who did Peter say were witnesses of these things (Acts 5:33)? What can we conclude about the role of the Spirit in witnessing (John 15:26-27; 1 Peter 1:12; John 6:7-11)?

(e) To whom does God give His Holy Spirit (also compare Acts 2:38-39 and Acts 6:7)?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 5:27-32, John 16:7-11 and John 15:26-27. Talk about what the Holy Spirit does in witnessing. Why is His work essential? What is our work? Why is our work essential too? Pray for the Lord to bring conviction to someone that you know needs to know the Lord.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 5:33-39.** What was the response of the council to Peter's remarks (John 15:20; John 16:2)?

(b) Who gave the council some advice? Who else did this man influence (Acts 22:3)?

(c) What two men did he compare Jesus to? How was Jesus very different?

(d) What did he conclude about the movement (Acts 5:38-39)? Is this a logical conclusion? Explain.

(e) What did Jesus say about himself (Matthew 12:30)? What was wrong with this Gamaliel's approach (1 Kings 18:21; Joshua 24:15)?

(f) *Family:* Read Acts 5:33-39 and Joshua 24:15. Discuss compromise and tolerance. When are they appropriate? When are they not appropriate? Why was this inappropriate in this case? What did Joshua decide for his house? Pray that your family might not waver or compromise but follow the Lord no matter what the consequences.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 5:41-42.** What did the council do to the disciples before they released them (Deuteronomy 25:2-3; 2 Corinthians 11:24)? What does this tell us about their fear of God?
- (b) What did the disciples do when they left the council? How is this different from the way we react today?
- (c) What did they believe about suffering that we often forget today (Philippians 1:29; Matthew 5:11-12)? What did they suffer for Jesus' sake (in addition to physical suffering)? What is a major concern that often keeps believers today from sharing the gospel?
- (d) What did they continue to do? Where did they do it? What two aspects of evangelism are mentioned in Acts 5:42 (Acts 8:4; 14:7; 18:4; 17:17; 19:8)?
- (e) What is the importance of their teaching and preaching "in every house" (Romans 16:5, 10-11, 14; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:40-42 and Matthew 5:11-12. Discuss what it means to suffer of the sake of the gospel. How did these suffer? Why did they rejoice? Pray for Christians around the world who are suffering for their refusal to stop sharing the gospel.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Acts 5:12-42. What were some of the undeniable evidences of the truth of Christianity that we saw in this chapter? Why do some still refuse to believe in spite of such overwhelming evidence? Why is it essential that we rely upon the work of the Holy Spirit in evangelism and conversion? Why were these disciples willing to keep on sharing even under great persecution? Pray for your church that many would be willing to suffer so that the gospel might be shared.

**DATE:** March 11, 2007

**PASSAGE:** Acts 5:12-42

***The Persecution of the Church***

*"...rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name."*