

Acts 5:17-42

The Opposition Makes Their Move (Part 2)

Scripture: Acts 5:17-42

Memory Verse: Acts 5:29 *“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’”*

Lesson Focus: Last week we saw the opposition try and corrupt the church from the inside. This week we see them try and do it from the outside. In both cases, however, the church withstood the attacks and continued to make disciples! We will challenge the kids to also be ready and to boldly follow Jesus against whatever opposition comes.

Activities and Crafts: Peter and John on Trial Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Chess Knight

Starter Activity: Chess Game

While we used this activity last week, we will offer it again as this lesson continues directly from last week’s lesson (and there also were no Saturday night kids services).

We will leave a chess set in your class and consider using it to help the kids understand the escalating battle between the good guys (the early church) and the bad guys. Start out by having the pieces setup on the board and asking the kids a few Qs about the pieces. (If you used this the week before, consider modifying the Qs a little to quiz them)

Q: Do any of you know how to play the game of chess? Q: What are the six pieces called? A: Pawn, rook, knight, bishop, queen, and king.

Q: How do the pieces move differently across the board? A: Bishops move diagonally, knights can only jump, etc.

Let’s pretend the white pieces are the early church (the good guys) and the black pieces are the opposition (the bad guys). Last week, the bad guys made their move by attacking from the inside of the church (select two white pieces and replace them with black). *

Q: But what happened? A: These “pretenders” were caught in their sin and God actually took them out to protect the church! (take the two black pieces off of the board)

The good guys then made their counter-move (**read Acts 5:14-16**). **Teachers:** Consider using the chess board as an “action figure” * play area to illustrate the action (i.e. move a couple of the white pieces out into the middle to pretend preaching the gospel and working miracles, and show how black pieces became white pieces, etc.).

Now it is the bad guys’ turn to make another move. Let’s open our Bibles and see what happens next!

Bible Study:

Acts 5:17: The bad guys are filled with indignation!

Q: What do you think that means? A: They were FURIOUS! * (**Teachers:** Again, and throughout the lesson consider using the chess board to illustrate the action. For example, surround the two white pieces with several bigger black pieces)

Acts 5:18: And Peter and John are put back in prison just like two pieces on a chess board would be captured. * Last week, the bad guys made their attack from inside the camp, but today we see them make their attack on the outside!

Acts 5:19: WHOA! Now this is something pretty amazing!

Q: How did the apostles get out of prison? A: An angel came and rescued them! *

Acts 5:20-21a: But notice that he did not just rescue them and send them away into hiding, but told them to go right back to preaching the same good news of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ to all of the people! * And they did!

Let's pause for a minute and better understand what this battle is all about. You might remember that after Jesus died and rose again He commissioned the first believers to make disciples, or other followers of Jesus. (**Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8**) This is called the "Great Commission" and our church logo captures this: BE, MAKE, SEND. The church's mission is still the same today: that all of us would BE disciples, who MAKE and SEND disciples. * (**Teachers:** See graphic on last page and consider using during teaching. We will leave print-out of it in your classroom. Consider also using the chess pieces to illustrate what BE-ing, MAKE-ing, and SEND-ing disciples looks like!) *

Q: But who is in charge of the bad guys? A: The devil! He wants to do all he can to stop people from having eternal life with Jesus. In fact, **John 10:10** says what his mission is: steal, kill, and destroy. * The devil will do whatever he can to accomplish his mission.

Acts 5:21b-24: Things begin to get a little funny here. The bad guys did not know about the angel rescuing the apostles so they still send to have them brought before them from the prison to face their sentencing. Imagine their surprise when they are told everything is normal except that they weren't there!! *

Acts 5:25: And as they are wondering where they might be someone bursts in and tells them that they are in the last place anyone would have expected: Right back in the temple teaching people about Jesus! This funny sequence seems like something you would see in an action movie where the bad guy is excited to enact his evil plan but then realizes the good guys escaped and everything goes wrong for the bad guys at that point! *

Acts 5:26: So, the apostles are unjustly arrested yet again, but this time more gently because they had all of the attention of the people. *

Acts 5:27-28: They were warned once before not to teach about Jesus.

Q: What do you think the apostles are going to do? Do you think they will stop? NO!

Acts 5:29: Instead they look them right in the eye and say, “*We must obey God rather than you!*”

Q: Remember, what did Jesus command them to do? A: BE, MAKE, SEND! * They had to choose between obeying Jesus and obeying these men who did not want them to make followers of Jesus. And they trusted in Jesus enough that they were willing to obey Him no matter what the consequences were! *

As a side note, this doesn't give believers the right to disobey authorities willy-nilly. Elsewhere in the Bible (**Titus 3:1**) believers are commanded to be good citizens who honor government authorities, whether we like them or not. It is only when authorities demand us to sin and disobey God that we must choose to obey God rather than men.

- Example: If the government says it is illegal to pray, will you obey? NO! *

Acts 5:30-32: This is the same gospel message that the bad guys have heard before: that even though they killed Jesus, God raised Him from the dead. And God is offering them forgiveness if they would only repent, or turn to Him in faith! *

Q: Do you think they will? Well, let's see what happens next!

Acts 5:33: Sadly no! Their hearts were proud and hard and they got even more mad! *

Acts 5:34-39: But one guy hadn't lost his temper and at least spoke a little bit of sense to calm the others down a little. * We don't know what his reasons were but he warns them that if all that was happening was indeed the work of God (and it was!) they would be fighting against God (and they were!).

Acts 5:40: That cooled the bad guys down a little bit to let go of their plans to kill them but they still beat them up pretty good before letting them go. So, while the apostles are released, they still took a heavy beating.

Q: Do you think they are going to stop now?

Acts 5:41-42: NO WAY! Notice that it says they left the bad guys REJOICING that they suffered as followers of Jesus! Jesus was their hero and just as He suffered for them, they were gladly willing to suffer for Him and for the sake of the gospel! *

Key Point: In Acts 5 we have seen the enemy's tactics. Sometimes he will attack from inside of the camp (Ananias and Sapphira) and other times he will attack on the outside (like what we saw today). We need to be on the alert! In another book of the Bible, Peter wrote this: “*Be ready, for your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*” (**1 Peter 5:8**) * Peter and the apostles were ready. Are you ready and will you also BE a disciple who MAKES other disciples? * You might get made fun of or even hurt following Jesus. But it is worth it!

Or maybe you are on the wrong team! If Jesus doesn't matter to you, then you are! He said, “*if you aren't with Me you are against Me*” (**Luke 11:23**). He loves you and by His death and resurrection made a way for your sins to be forgiven! You need to “make your move” and repent of your sin and become a disciple of Jesus today! *

FIND THE TREASURE

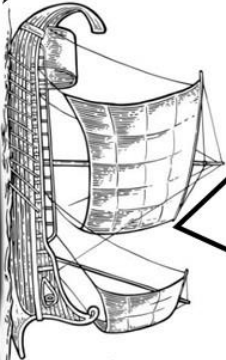
Mediterranean World
Countries or Areas and Islands



Read Acts 5:29
In what ways can you
obey God this week?

PARENT CHALLENGE
Have you ever been persecuted or
made fun of for your faith?

Read Acts 5:41
Why were the apostles
rejoicing?





BE



MAKE



SEND