

FOOD TIME: (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

As we continue on into the book of Acts, we are seeing more testimonies of the disciples spreading the gospel. In chapter 5, we come across them being imprisoned by the high priest. But we also see the power of God and His will being done in this part of the chapter as well. There is nothing that is going to stop the disciples from spreading the name of Jesus, and God clearly shows us here. As we look into what happens here, take the perspective of both the disciples and of those who have imprisoned them. Think about how God can work in each of our lives regardless of our situation.

READ Acts 5:17-25

17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, **18** and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. **19** But at night, the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, **20** "Go stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." **21** And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. **22** But when the officers came and did not find them in the prison, they returned and reported, **23** saying, "Indeed we found the prison shut securely, and the guards standing outside before the doors; but when we opened them we found no one inside!" **24** Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard these things, they wondered what the outcome would be. **25** So one came and told them, saying, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. Looking at the obedience of the disciples to go and preach, what do you think their reaction was as the prison doors were opened?
2. What do you think was going through the minds of the high priest and the captain as they realized that God had clearly had a part in the disciples getting out of the jail?
3. What does this event tell the people of Jerusalem about the disciples and their mission to spread the gospel?
4. Has there been a time when God has called you to walk boldly in His name? Explain.
5. This passage shows that nothing can hold back the power of God, how can you use this passage in today's world?

PRAY- Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

APPLICATION- This section of scripture is so powerful because it emphasizes that nothing can hold back the power of God and the spreading of His name. The disciples are witness to this amazing work and it adds to their testimony of who Jesus is as they spread the gospel. It also sent a clear message that no matter who opposes those who share the love of Jesus, nothing can hold that back. Fear and worry struck the heart of the high priest and his council at this moment because not even a prison cell could stop the disciples here. As we continue to walk boldly in our lives, we can be encouraged by the passage to know that God is always at work, and that nothing is too difficult for Him to handle.