



ACTS 5

THE APOSTLES PERSECUTED

Scripture: Acts 5:17-42

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Main Takeaway: The Apostles began to face persecution, But God rescued them this time.

Supplies: Cones for a jail, Candy: Sour Patch Kids pack, Payday, Almond Joy, green Jolly Rancher (or other candy), Golden Nugget.

Ask:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (How the early church prayed together and shared and served.)

The church is growing and spreading. But it isn't without opposition. There are still Jewish religious leaders that want to stop the spread of the Good News.

Words to know before you read:

Sadducees- these were men of a religious sect of Judaism that didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead.

Pharisees- these were men of another sect of Judaism. They believed in very strictly following the law with a great concern for purity.

Read: Acts 5:17-26

Explain:

The apostles were thrown into jail for preaching in the Name of Jesus. How do you think they felt during this time? How would you have felt in prison for simply talking about Jesus? How do you think they felt when the angel came?

Play a Game:

Play jailbreak to remind the kids of the angel breaking them out of jail (cones set up in a square). Have two even teams and an Angel. The seeking team will try to capture the hiding team. If they tag them, they must go to jail. As the jail fills up, the angel can run and touch the jail, shouting JAILBREAK! Then they all get out again. Play for about 2 minutes, switch roles of seeking, hiding, and angel, then play for 2 more minutes.

Read: Acts 5:27-42

Explain:

Look at the response of the Apostles. They are being accused by powerful men who want to see them killed, but they boldly continue to preach the Name of Jesus. Peter gives a really fast version of the gospel in just three sentences (v 30-32).

They leave with a flogging after Gamaliel stands up for them, but that isn't the end of the persecution, it's just the beginning.

Do an Activity:

Peter and the other disciples were able to present the truth of the Gospel quickly and with power. Have you ever tried to share your faith in Jesus before? It isn't always easy, is it? I know I have struggled to share the gospel before. I feel tongue-tied or nervous or feel like I say the wrong things. But here is a secret- it gets easier as you do it. It also is easier if you have a plan on what to say. So today, we're going to retell the gospel with candy, and then you're going to take some time to think about and write down or draw how you will share the gospel the next time you can.

Using candy, explain how each piece can represent a part of the gospel.

Sour Patch Kids- The truth is, we're all sour kids. We are sinners that fall short of the glory of God. We don't meet his perfect standard and follow his laws. We fail at this every day.

Payday- Thankfully, our sins have been paid for. Jesus came to earth, and he never sinned. He didn't deserve punishment, but he took our sins upon himself and died on the cross. He died to pay our debt and make us right with God. But it didn't end there, he rose three days later conquering sin and death!

Almod Joy- When we recognize we have sinned we can confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness through Jesus. He is faithful to forgive us. Then we can commit to follow him as Lord. This means that we repent and live differently than how we have been living. We won't be perfect, but we try to live according to God's Word. Following Jesus brings greater joy than anything else on this earth because it is what we were made for.

Green Jolly Rancher (or other green candy)- This green candy reminds us that we grow in our faith in Christ. We learn to trust him and follow him more and more the more we spend time with other believers, reading our Bibles, and praying.

Golden Nugget- This reminds us that our home is heaven. Someday, we will die, or Jesus will return, but those who trust in him have the promise of eternity- being together with Jesus forever in a place with no sorrow or pain.

Do an Activity

Now it is your turn. You've just heard the gospel presented in one way. Now I want you to sit down and think of a way you can share what you believe about Jesus. It doesn't have to have candy or anything special- the gospel is already special! Just think of how you can answer someone if they ask you who Jesus is. Write down what you would say. If you can't write yet, either tell it to an adult for them to write down for you or draw a picture to show the gospel.

Memorize Acts 5:42**Close in Prayer**