

Q: Some believe that these Spirit-led men chosen to serve, represent (or foreshadow) the first deacons in the church. (see 1 Tim 3; Titus 1 for more details on church deacons & elders). How did these men help lift the burden to help the Apostles focus on their main role (vv.4-7) and what was the result? Why is the teaching of God's Word so vital in reaching lost people and making disciples for Christ?

Q: What is your role in the overall local church body? If unsure, what steps can you take to find your God-given niche and then put it into practice? (see 1 Cor 12:12-27)

Q: The names of the seven men chosen had Greek names, thus it seemed very appropriate (after corporate praying) that God chose and empowered these men to address the issue with Greek speaking widows. Learning from this, what steps can we take to best address issues that arise in the church today? How can we best address issues of economic disparity, or even other issues like racism, justice or inequality, especially within the church?

Pray: Lord have mercy on me. Stir up your Holy Spirit and give me boldness to proclaim Jesus to those around me. Help me to know how best to show your love and truth to those around me. Cleanse me of my sins. Help me to see others as You see them. Help me to identify needs within the church family and help me work to fill those needs. All for your glory and honor, in Jesus' name, Amen!



Harvest Growing Deeper

Evangelical Free Church

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)

Week of July 5, 2020

Acts 5:17-6:7

Our world is growing increasingly antagonistic or hostile to Biblical Christian beliefs. Jesus said we would be persecuted as He was persecuted (Jn 15:20). What do we do when faced with opposition to what we believe and know is true? In Acts 5, we see how Peter and the other apostles dealt with opposition and how the Holy Spirit continued to empower them to boldly proclaim God's Truth. In (5:29) when told not to preach Jesus, they would choose "to obey God rather than any human authority."

Up to this point, the Apostles, filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit, continued to do many miracles and lead many to faith in Jesus.

Q: (vv.17-18) How did the religious leaders respond?

Q: (vv.19-21) How did God rescue the Apostles and what were they told to do? (5:40) Even obeying God, what happened to them?

Q: (vv.21-26) How did the religious leaders respond the next day?!

* note the irony in v.26, how they were afraid of the people! _____

Q: (vv.27-29) When threatened by the religious leaders, how did the Apostles boldly respond?

Q: (vv.29-32) The religious council (Sanhedrin) had condemned Jesus to death for “blasphemy.” If Jesus was truly innocent of blasphemy, as the Apostles were clearly stating publicly, these religious leaders would have been guilty of condemning an innocent man (see 2:23; 3:13-15; 4:10-11; also **Matt 27:25**). Why did the council want to kill the Apostles?

Q: According to God’s Word, Christians are to try to live at peace with everyone (Rom 12:18), submit to our civil authorities (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-17, Mk 12:17), & pray for them (1 Tim 2:1-4). When forced to choose, when is it acceptable in God’s eyes to disobey civil leaders to obey God (v.29)?

Q: How have you experienced choosing to “serve God rather than men,” or seen this in the lives of other Christ-followers?

Q: (vv.34-39) Gamaliel was a voice of reason who stepped in to prevent their death (he also influenced the Apostle Paul—Acts 22:3). What advice did he provide the council? (Look at vv. 38-39) What was so ironic about his advice?

Q: (vv.40-42) What punishment were the Apostles given and what was amazing about how they responded to that punishment?

Why would the Apostles rejoice at their suffering for Jesus? (see Mt 5:10-12; Phil 1:29)

Q: To what extent are you willing to suffer to continue speaking about Jesus and what He has done for you? (see John 15:20)

Q: (vv.40-42) Have you been persecuted for your faith yet felt God’s presence and strength? How can we learn to rejoice when persecuted for our faith (as strange as that may seem)? (see Rom 8:18; 1 Pet 4:13)

Q: (6:1) What was the problem facing the Christian Church (disciples)?

Q: (6:2-6) What did the Twelve Apostles do to solve this problem?
