

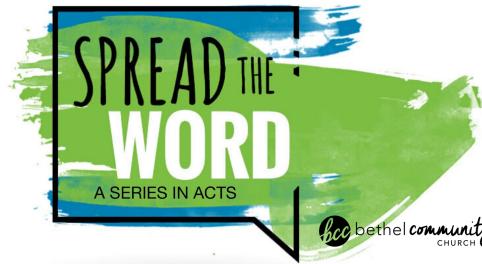
The Heart of the Matter

12. Have you ever been persecuted for righteousness' sake?
How did you respond to how you were treated?

13. Just as the disciples were set free from the prison, in what way has God set you free to honor Him more fully?

14. How do you explain why God sometimes delivers us out of hardships, but at other times He allows us to go through them?

15. Just as the disciples had to choose between honoring God or man in verse 29, describe a recent event when you had to choose between God and man.



Life Group Study Guide

Suffering for Christ's Sake

Acts 5:12-42

For the Week of January 6, 2019

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?

2. What things come to mind when you think about a jail or prison?

3. When you leave your home or car unattended do you always lock your doors? Why or why not?

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Digging Deeper

4. Along with their preaching, the apostles worked signs and wonders (V12-16). What did those works do to help their ministry?
5. How would you account for the jealousy of the Sadducees in verse 17?
6. As an apostle, how would you feel during the events of verses 18-21? What would you have expected to happen next?
7. According to verses 26-28, for what reasons were the apostles arrested by the Jewish Council?
8. What assertions in Peter's response (V29-32) would invite the council's fury? Why is Peter being so direct (4:1-12; 5:19-20)?
9. Prior to Jesus, there were many Jewish zealots who led rebellions against Rome. What is Gamaliel's point in recalling two such leaders in verses 36-37? Is Gamaliel perhaps a secret believer in Christ as mentioned in John 12:42?
10. Flogging sometimes resulted in death. Why do you think the disciples considered it worth rejoicing that they suffered in Jesus' name in verse 41 (John 19:1)? How had Jesus told them to respond (Matthew 5:10-12)?
11. How might proclaiming Jesus as the risen Prince and Savior in Jerusalem immediately after His crucifixion be different than proclaiming Jesus as the risen Prince and Savior over 2,000 years later and 6,000 miles away?