

MOVING FORWARD

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READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

MOVING FORWARD

SESSION 4

STAND FIRM, HOLD FAST

OPEN

As you open up tonight, let's think about this past week. How would you feel if you were sent to jail for what you believed? How would your family feel? What would this do to your faith?

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH THE VIDEO

What jumped out at you from the video?

INTRODUCTION

What was the response of Peter when the religious leaders give stern instruction to the apostles to stop preaching the name of Jesus?

Peter immediately proclaims the name of Jesus and challenges their character & authority, noting that obedience to God is of utmost importance.

READ

READ ACTS 5:24-29

Who were the Sanhedrin?

They were the ruling spiritual leaders. The Sanhedrin were called in to make a ruling. They would serve as the judge and jury in the case, the Sadducees vs. the Apostles.

Why couldn't the Sanhedrin rule on the Apostles?

As everyone has been called forward and are waiting for a speedy trial and a swift guilty charge, no one can find those being tried! They are not in the prison where they were the night before.

Where were the Apostles and what were they doing?

MOVING FORWARD

SESSION 4

STAND FIRM, HOLD FAST

Someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people."

Who freed the disciples from prison and why?

God would, in fact, free them Himself and give them further instructions. They entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

What was the contrast between the Apostles and the Sadducees?

Apostles feared God and not man. The Sadducees on the other hand, were not motivated by a fear of God but by the fear of man. Their concern at this point wasn't to do what was right but to do their own will and try their best to keep the people happy because they feared them.

What do you think the real reason that the Apostles were arrested?

The Apostles are not arrested and commanded to be silent because it's the right thing to do but because they, like Jesus before them, are simply bad for business and hard on the general economy of the Temple.

What is the biggest concern of the Jewish leaders?

The leaders are especially concerned that they are being singled out as responsible for the death of Jesus. They clearly fear a violent insurrection against them.

How did the way that the Jewish leaders saw the death of Jesus differ from the way that the Apostles viewed it?

The Jewish leaders regarded the death of Jesus as the result of the legal trial of a malefactor; the

MOVING FORWARD

SESSION 4

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Christians were making it out to be an act of murder and claiming that the Jewish leaders were guilty men.

When Peter says 'we must obey God rather than man' what is he really saying?

Peter is saying we will not listen to you. We will not stop teaching and we will not stop filling this city with the Good News of Jesus Christ. You are in complete opposition to what God commanded us to do and we will not listen to you but we will listen to God.

If you had to go through the sufferings of the apostles, how would you cope?

Answers will vary

How is it possible to have joy in the middle of a difficult circumstance?

Answers will vary

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- what would you say makes God's spiritual enemy angry and what does that mean for God's people?
- When confronted with opposition to the gospel how are you willing to respond?
- What steps are you willing to take to be faithful to the calling that god has given you?
- Who are you more afraid of; God or man?



MOVING FORWARD

SESSION 4

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BIG IDEA

This week we look at their response in the face of adversity! Once again, the religious leaders arrest the apostles, doing so gently out of the fear of man. The religious leaders give stern instruction to the apostles to stop preaching the name of Jesus and to stop impugning their character & authority, but rather than follow these instructions, Peter immediately proclaims the name of Jesus and challenges their character & authority, noting that obedience to God is of utmost importance.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

READ ACTS 5:24-29

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What should we copy from the character and example of Peter?

How can you become more like Peter in your witness for Christ?

How can you experience God more fully, so that you are set free to rejoice no matter what sufferings you experience?

