



BEAUTY OF EVANGELISM

GROUP SERIES

WEEK 8 - WHAT IF I AM REJECTED?

Big Idea: The question is not "if we will be rejected" but how we handle rejection

Ice Breaker:

Consider these questions:

- What do you think causes people to be hesitant in sharing the gospel and evangelizing? What inner turmoil or conflicts do people sometimes encounter with evangelism.
- Describe a time when you faced rejection (maybe it was playing basketball, maybe it was asking someone out, maybe it was a job prospect). How did you feel?
- Did that rejection cause you to respond differently the next time you faced a similar situation? How does rejection typically affect confidence?

Watch Video:

As a group, watch this week's video Good Company in Rejection

Into The Word:

Read Acts 5:17-42:

17 But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy 18 they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." 21 And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. 22 But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, 23 "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." 24 Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. 25 And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." 26 Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by

force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." 33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 34 But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 36 For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. 38 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, 40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Ask:

- Why were the apostles first arrested?
- What encouragement does the angel bring to the apostles?
- What is Peter's response to the questioning? What happens to the apostles as a result of their obedience to God?
- What is the response of the apostles after leaving the council? What happens to the Church as a result of this?

Putting Into Practice:

Throughout Scripture, we see that as God's people were faithful to proclaiming the gospel, God grew His Church. While many would face rejection, persecution, and even death, the gospel continued to go forth and the Church continued to grow.

- How do you respond to rejection for the sake of Christ?
- Who are you afraid of being rejected by if you were to share the gospel with them?
- How does your group talk about sharing the gospel with others? Do you have weekly time where you talk about those you have shared the gospel with? How will your group celebrate when someone shares the gospel (even if they were rejected)?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer, asking God for encouragement that you might face rejection. Pray that God would set your heart and mind on Christ when considering rejection and that He would mold your heart to be aligned with His. Pray fervently that the hearts and minds of the lost would receive Jesus. Pray for the members of your group and for the community of your group to be a source of rejoicing and encouragement even in the face of rejection.

