Online Study Guide

ACTS 5:17–25 • MOVEMENT 3 • STUDY SLIDES 1–4



You Cannot Imprison God’s Word

The central truth: The Lord releases His witnesses to continue speaking of Jesus. Their freedom serves His mission. Faithfulness can still involve suffering.

Open your Bible to Acts 5. Pause or rewind the recording as you need. Begin with what the text says, then consider its meaning and your response. Type in the boxes and save your PDF, or print and write by hand.

Name

Date

Our journey: Movement 1, holiness (1–11); Movement 2, a unified church (12–16); Movement 3, continued witness (17–25); Movement 4, obedience (26–32); Movement 5, continued teaching through suffering (33–42).

Section references follow the study slide numbers shown on screen, after the countdown. The cinematic artwork illustrates the account without supplying details Luke leaves unstated.

Read Acts 5:17–25

ACTS 5:17–25 • MOVEMENT 3 • STUDY SLIDES 5–6 • KING JAMES VERSION

17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned and told,

23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

24 Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

Which actions and repeated words stand out?

Opposition and the Lord’s release

ACTS 5:17–25 • MOVEMENT 3 • STUDY SLIDES 7–11 • ACTS 5:17–19

From public respect to opposition

The signs and growth in Acts 5:12–16 are followed by resistance. The high priest and his associates imprison the apostles. “Common prison” means public prison. Luke speaks of the apostles as a group without listing each name in this unit.

How does this challenge the idea that faithfulness always brings ease?

The Lord opens the prison

An angel of the Lord opens the doors by night and brings the apostles out. Luke gives the messenger’s actions without describing every detail of the release. Read the miracle together with the command in verse 20.

Why should we connect the open prison with the assignment that follows?

Consider: Can I thank the Lord when another person’s ministry bears fruit? Gratitude can help us examine jealousy while keeping Jesus central.

Go, stand, and speak

ACTS 5:17–25 • MOVEMENT 3 • STUDY SLIDES 12–16 • ACTS 5:20–21

The people need the message of Jesus

The command sends the apostles to the temple to speak “all the words of this life.” The gospel centers on Jesus, His resurrection, repentance, and forgiveness. Jesus died for our sins and rose again. We receive salvation through faith in Him.

How is the message of life more than general encouragement?

Their freedom serves their calling

At daybreak, the apostles hear, enter, and teach. While they obey, the council gathers and sends for prisoners it expects to find in custody. The Lord’s command has already given the apostles their next step.

Compare verse 20 with verse 21. How does hearing become action?

How can Scripture guide our choices about an opportunity?

The apostles receive a specific command. The passage does not make every opportunity a command from God or require reckless action.

Secure doors. An empty prison.

ACTS 5:17–25 • MOVEMENT 3 • STUDY SLIDES 17–23 • ACTS 5:22–25

The leaders discover their limits

The officers find the prison secure and the guards present, but the apostles are gone. The leaders are perplexed. Verse 25 then reports the apostles standing in the temple and teaching the people. Their actions echo the command in verse 20.

What do the officers find, and what does the messenger later report?

Compare verses 20, 21, and 25. What does the connection reveal?

Faithful interpretation

God delivered these apostles in this scene. This account does not promise immediate release from every hardship. Acts 12:1–11 describes James's death and Peter's release. Faithful believers may suffer. Continuing pressure does not by itself prove weak faith.

How can this truth help us care for someone whose hardship continues?

Our response this week

ACTS 5:17–25 • MOVEMENT 3 • STUDY SLIDES 24–25

Let your response grow from Scripture. Choose a faithful step you can follow through on, and invite another believer to pray with you. You may keep sensitive details private. Pause the recording while you reflect.

What fear is making me hesitate?

What has Scripture made clear?

What faithful step will I take?

Who can pray and walk with me?

A helpful starting point: Listen to a friend, ask whether they are open to a conversation about Jesus, and speak clearly and humbly about what He has done. Seek wise support as needed.

Gather the truth and move forward

ACTS 5:17–25 • MOVEMENT 3 • STUDY SLIDES 26–28

The leaders arrest. The Lord opens the prison and commands the apostles to speak. They return to teach. The witness continues under pressure. Jesus remains the center of the message.

In one sentence, what does this passage teach?

Forward & Higher Together

Forward: The message reaches people.
Higher: Obedience grows under pressure.
Together: We pray and witness as a body.

Whose courage can I support this week, and how?

My additional notes or questions

Prayer: Father, strengthen our trust. Give us courage to obey Your Word and speak of Jesus with humility. Keep us faithful when pressure remains. Help us pray, care, and walk together. In Jesus' name, amen.

Next movement: Acts 5:26–32, We Must Obey God. Read ahead. Notice the leaders' command, the apostles' response, and their message about Jesus.