

Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

When your faith in Jesus gets real, is perilous, and begins to cost you, how will you respond?

GETTING STARTED

1. When faced with difficult circumstances, what confidence do you gain by being connected to other followers of Jesus?

BIBLE IDEA

2. Read Acts 5:17-26. Why do you suppose the Sadducees were filled with jealousy (vs. 15-16)? Even with the fear of death, why did Peter and the apostles confidently speak to the people the “words of this Life”? Could being disobedient to God hinder one’s confidence in his/her faith? How?
3. Read Acts 5:27-33. What was inherently scandalous about the High Priest’s statement in verse 28 (see Luke 23:1-5; 23-25)? In considering Peter’s response, “We must obey God rather than man,” how might you apply this same attitude to a current situation?
4. Read Acts 5:34-42. Explain in your own words Gamaliel’s logic behind releasing the apostles. What was the apostles’ reaction (vs. 41)? What did the apostles continue to do with even more confidence (vs. 42)? Why?
5. Read James 1:2-4. What sort of trials (temptations) are you facing right now? What does steadfastness [endurance, perseverance] in faith look like to you personally? How might you find support with other followers of Jesus when facing trials and temptations?
6. Read Isaiah 40:30-31. Share about a recent time you were exhausted. How are we to regain our strength and confidence in the Lord? What are some ways you have created margin in your life to simply wait on the Lord to renew your strength?

NEXT STEPS

7. Choose one reaction that you identify with, when faced with unclear direction:
 - a. I find myself disobeying biblical principles.
 - b. I operate in the flesh rather than the Spirit.
 - c. I push through my solutions to make something happen.What one step will you take this week to confidently wait on the Lord?