

# Family Discipleship Guide: Acts

Week of May 25th

- Wednesday
  - Read Acts 5:25-32, 41-42
  - Discuss:
    - Refer to verse 25: How do you think the chief priests felt when they heard that Peter and the apostles were no longer in prison? (Shocked, surprised, etc.)
    - After the high priest reminded the apostles that he had already put them in prison for continuing to speak the Gospel, how did Peter respond? (vs. 29)
    - What do you think that means, to obey God rather than men?
    - Does that mean that you don't have to listen to your parents/teacher/etc? (Discuss how God has put certain people in authority in our lives, but when someone tells us to do something that we know would not please God or would be a sin, we are to obey God.)
    - Why is it important that God has given the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him?
  - Helpful hints about this passage:
    - The chief priests/high priest were the religious leaders of the day. They were the ones who led at the temple, but also devised a plan to kill Jesus (vs. 30) when he was still on earth. The miracles Jesus performed and the authority with which he spoke threatened the leadership of the chief priests, causing them to be blinded to the truth that Jesus was who He said He was - God's son!
    - Over and over in Acts when Luke is giving accounts of Peter and the disciples speaking to the religious leaders, he reminds them that they were the ones who killed Jesus. They wanted them to see their sin and their wrongdoings and see how God used even that for good - to bring forgiveness to all of His people.
- Thursday
  - Read Acts 6:1-7
  - Discuss:
    - Because the Hellenist people spoke a different language, some of their widows we're being served or getting their needs met like other members of the church? How did Peter and the disciples respond to this problem?
    - What did the apostles do before they sent these 7 men out to serve? (vs. 6)

- What kind of things do you think the disciples prayed for in verse 6?
  - In verse 7, we get an idea of what happened after these men were sent out. Did the other disciples just sit around after they left and let those 7 men do all of the work? No! What does verse 7 tell us happened as a result of the disciples' obedience?
- Helpful hints about this passage:
  - Hellenists were Greek-speaking Jews who lived outside of the area where the disciples were serving and preaching the gospel. Instead of letting their differences divide these two groups of believers, the disciples decided that the best thing they could do was meet their needs just as they were doing for everyone else.
  - Philip and Steven both have a key role in the spread of the gospel throughout the remainder of the New Testament, while the other five men are not mentioned again. Discuss whether or not that makes the other men less important (not in the least!).
- Friday
  - Read Acts 6:8-15
  - Discuss:
    - What was Stephen filled with and from that what was he doing? V8
    - What was the Jewish leader's response in verse 9?
    - Were they able to withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen was speaking? See what Jesus tells his disciples in Luke 21:14-15.
    - We learned last week one of the "heart issues" that drove the Jewish leaders into the actions against Christ and his disciples. Do you remember what that "heart issue" was? (Jealousy)
    - What spiraling actions came from their jealous hearts toward Stephen?
  - Helpful hints about this passage:
    - Remember that Stephen was one of the seven Hellenists selected to minister to the widows. Like the apostles he not only ministered to the needy but his primary concern was ministry of the Word. He preached about Christ in the Greek speaking synagogues of Jerusalem where he was seized and dragged before the Sanhedrin.
- Saturday
  - Read Acts 7:1-8

- Discuss:
  - How does Stephen address the men (Sanhedrin) that have arrested him? V. 2 (Brothers and Fathers) Can you picture Stephen drawing them into the conversation by calling them family?
  - The Sanhedrin would have known the history of God's people, their people. When Stephen started his speech about God's glory appearing to his people, who did he mention first? Why do you think that would have been important to the Sanhedrin?
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- Helpful hints about this passage:
  - In Stephen's speech to the Sanhedrin, he is reminding them of their history and God faithfulness. We will call these "memory stones" of GOD's glory and faithfulness throughout time. (Joshua 4 ) In your own life go back through and discuss the times that God's faithfulness has been on display. Making your own "memory stone" moments timeline.
  - Use this time to take a stroll back through history. Look up Abraham's story starting in Genesis 12.

## ACTion point this week:

- Make a family "memory stone" garden, box or jar. You can get creative with your ideas. Materials will be in the resource bin to help. (Paper for memory jar and stones for the garden.) These are just visual reminders of how God's glory and faithfulness has been revealed throughout your lives.
- Take pictures of your "memory stones" creations and send them to [Kelly@rickfork.com](mailto:Kelly@rickfork.com).
- Share one of your "memory stone" moments with a friend!