

ACTS

Bible Study

2018-2019



Lesson: 5

Acts 5

Darkness Pushes Back

Read this week's scripture and answer the questions below. As you read, consider how these verses fit into what you are seeing or experiencing today. Prepare to share with your small group anything that jumped out at you, confused you, encouraged you, challenged or convicted you.

1. Before you read chapter 5, ask God to help you not only understand but also to live out this week's lesson as revealed in the word. Read all of Acts Chapter 5.
2. Read verses 1-10, the story of Sapphira and Ananias. Consider what was going on this couple's heart. What caused them, causes us to keep a piece for ourselves rather than trust our whole lives to God. Let these thoughts lead you to prayer today.
3. Read verses 12-16. Here we see signs and wonders being accomplished in the name of Jesus by the apostles. The apostle's faith is evident in tangible ways. Is our faith evident in practical ways to others? Let this thought lead you into prayer today.
4. Consider verses 17-28. The apostle's encounter with opposition and the spirit provides away. Here, opposition mixes with opportunity. Consider this mix in your own life. What trials might actually be opportunities for transformation? Let these thoughts lead you to prayer.
5. Reflect on verses 29-32. Peter stands as a witness of the gospel of Jesus, the work done on the cross. Don't rush past this profound truth. It is for us as much as it was for Peter's audience. Offer praise to the Lord for what he has done and what he is doing to redeem his creation, to gather his sons and daughters to himself.
6. Think on verses 33-39, especially verses 38-39. Here, Gamaliel, a Pharisee offers a profound analysis of the difference between the plans of men and the plans of God. Consider this difference; consider the plans that dominate your life. Turn these thoughts to prayer.
7. Focus on verses 40-42. The Apostles are beaten; The Apostles rejoice. What (or who) makes sense of this paradox? Jesus' suffering makes sense of our suffering (so long as it is suffering born of following after him and not our own stubbornness or stupidity). Let this remarkable insight transform your understanding of the challenges you face. Again, take these thoughts to prayer.

Notes/Prayer Request

ACTS 5:29-30

BUT PETER AND THE APOSTLES ANSWERED, "WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN. THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS RAISED JESUS, WHOM YOU KILLED BY HANGING HIM ON A TREE.