

ACTS CHAPTER 5:17-42

Worthy to Suffer for His Name



5

April 10, 2005
2.ACT05

Lesson Goal

Students will understand that the Holy Spirit gives the strength to endure as we share the Gospel.

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how the apostles got out of jail.
- Explain why the apostles couldn't stop proclaiming the truth of Jesus when they were told to.
- Understand and explain why the Sanhedrin responded as they did to the apostles.

Memory Verse

Acts 5:29 "Peter and the Apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than men!'"

Application

- Trust the Holy Spirit for the boldness to continually tell others about Christ.
- Proclaim the Word even in the face of trials and suffering.
- Rejoice in the face of trials and suffering.

TEACHER PLANNING SHEET

Prepare Your Heart

- Read and study through the passage meditatively.
- Prayerfully seek how God would have you personally apply this passage to your own life. Write these down.

Prepare the Lesson

- Choose from the various ideas in the lesson plan.
- Write down an approximate time frame for each.
- List the materials needed.

HOOK

Time

BOOK

Time

LOOK

Time

TOOK

Time

Materials Needed:



ACTS CHAPTER 5:17-42

Worthy to Suffer for His Name

5

1st–3rd Grade
April 10, 2005
2.ACT05EL

SHOOK _____

MEMORY VERSE



“Peter and the
Apostles
replied: ‘We
must obey God
rather than
men!’”

Acts 5:29



God Says/Man Says (Game). This game is a combination of Red Light/Green Light and Simon Says. Have the students line up at one end of the room. When the teacher says, “God says, ‘Take one big step (or other command),’” the students must do it. When the teacher says, “Man says, ‘Take one big step (or other command),’” and the students do what the teacher said, they are out. Play until the students reach the other side of the room. See how many are left. Tell them that in today’s Bible adventure they are going to learn about how Jesus had given the disciples a command and how they obeyed even through some really hard circumstances.

Jealousy (Discussion). Webster’s New American Dictionary defines jealousy as: 1) demanding complete devotion, 2) suspicions of a rival or of one believed to enjoy an advantage. Ask the following questions:

1. Have you ever been jealous of what someone else was doing? Have the students share some of their stories of jealousy.
2. What happened, if anything, as a result of their jealousy?

Tell them that today we will look at the high priest’s jealousy and how he reacted to the Apostles’ preaching.

Is God in It (Discussion). Ask the students the following questions:

1. Do you think that sometimes people do things in God’s name when they do not have His blessing?
2. How would you tell the difference between efforts in ministry that have God’s approval and those that do not?
3. How is it evident when God is at work through us?

Read and discuss Acts 5:38, 39. Share experiences where you were involved in a particular ministry and you saw God’s blessing. Tell them that in today’s Bible lesson, they will learn that because of what the Apostles were preaching, they were causing turmoil in the city of Jerusalem. The religious leaders wanted to kill them, but a teacher of the Law advised these leaders not to kill these men because if what they were doing were from God they would not be able to stop it anyway. In fact, they might even be found opposing God.

Presentation Ideas

Apostles Released (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). Acts 5:19-21, 2.ACT05EL.GF1.

Gamiliel Addressing the Council (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). Acts 5:33-39, 2.ACT05EL.GF2.

Apostles Leaving After Being Beaten (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). Acts 5:40-42, 2.ACT05EL.GF3.

Bible Adventure for 1st- 3rd grades

Suppose as you grow older you become part of a team of research scientists. Your goal is to discover a treatment that will halt the aging process in the human body. After years of hard work, you are successful. You can't wait to present your findings to the world. Imagine, a cure for old age! Now, suppose the world does not listen to you. Some people laugh out loud and call you crazy. But you persist in your claim. You are finally arrested for disturbing the peace. Do you give up and keep quiet about your tremendous discovery? Maybe you keep trying to convince people of the truth of your claim and earn a lengthy stay in jail for your trouble. At this point, most of us would give up. "Let everyone get old and die," you would think. "They don't want to listen to me so it's their problem now."

We've been hearing about the boldness of the Apostles in the book of Acts as they preached about Jesus and His resurrection. Their boldness resulted from the Holy Spirit giving them the power to be fearless witnesses of what they had seen and heard. As we continue to look at Acts chapter five, the Apostles had already been arrested and threatened with harm if they continued to teach the people about Jesus. Did this discourage them or slow them down? Not hardly. They prayed and asked God to continue giving them the boldness they needed to share the message. God was pleased to answer their prayer, and the spread of the Gospel continued.

The Apostles performed many miracles among the people. **Many men and women were becoming believers, in spite of the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira.** They had a healthy fear and respect of the Lord. People brought friends and relatives who were sick, and the Apostles healed them all. The church was growing, and God's power was evident everywhere the believers were. **The Apostles taught boldly about Jesus in the courts of the temple.**

However, not everyone was happy about this. Enter the chief priest and his Sadducee friends who were **eaten up with jealousy** over all the attention the Apostles were getting. **They had the Apostles arrested and thrown into the public jail.** They weren't going to give up the hold they had held over the Jewish people without a fight. These Sadducees should have known, after all the miracles they had seen, that a few locked doors and some bars were no match for the power of God. Sure enough, during the night **God sent an angel to open the door of the jail and let the Apostles out.** The angel told them to go

back to the temple courts and tell the people about the new life they could have in Jesus Christ.

It would have been very natural for the Apostles to question this command, to want to run and hide. But they didn't argue. **They obeyed this command from God and went right back to preaching and teaching about Jesus.** In the meantime, the chief priest and his friends called the Sanhedrin, the high council of the Jewish people, together and sent some men to the jail to bring the Apostles to them. Imagine their surprise when the men returned and reported that the jail was locked and guards posted outside, but there were no Apostles inside! They couldn't figure it out! This situation was out of control. Specifically, it was out of their control. They had done everything they could to stop the spread of Christianity and had not been successful. Now it seemed they couldn't even keep these Apostles under lock and key!

The Sanhedrin were about to discover they hadn't heard the worst of it. Someone came running into their meeting and said, "You know those guys you threw into jail last night? They're down in the temple courts, teaching the people." The captain of the temple guard and some of his soldiers went down and brought the Apostles back to the Sanhedrin. Soon they stood before the high priest. **"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name (*notice that he can't bring himself to speak the name of Jesus*). Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this Man's blood."**

You remember that Peter, in his sermons, had not hesitated to point a finger at the Jewish people and their leaders, telling them they had murdered Jesus. The high priest didn't like it, but he was also guilty of a very short memory. Not too many weeks had passed since the Jewish leadership had stood before Pilate and demanded Jesus' death, saying that His blood would be on their heads.

Now, if the high priest had hoped to frighten the Apostles with these charges he brought against them, he was about to be disappointed. Peter and the other Apostles replied, **"We must obey God rather than men."** **They went on to tell them that they were guilty of Jesus' blood. They put Him to death in the most painful, disgraceful way possible. God raised Him from the dead and presented Him to the world, and to Israel as Prince and Savior. The Apostles again reminded the Sanhedrin that they were eyewitnesses of all these things and so was the Holy Spirit, who was given to all who obeyed God.**

When the high priest and Sadducees heard this, they were furious and wanted to kill Peter and the other Apostles. Before they got a chance to carry out their wishes, a Pharisee named Gamaliel stood up. **Gamaliel was respected by the Jewish leaders as a teacher of the Law. He ordered that the Apostles be put outside for a while, then he spoke to the rest of the men.** He warned them to think carefully before doing anything to the Apostles. He reminded them of other times in Jewish history when men came preaching messages that called for change or even revolt. They gathered followers who believed their message. Before too long they were killed, their followers scattered, and the message was forgotten. Then Gamaliel gave them some advice. "Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." For whatever reason, Gamaliel's words seemed wise to

the Sanhedrin. **They called the Apostles in again and had them whipped. Then they warned them again to stop teaching about Jesus, and let them go.**

How would you have felt if you had been one of the Apostles? You certainly would have been hurting physically. Would you have been scared? Do you think they were? Listen to what the Bible says about them: "The Apostles left the Sanhedrin, *rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name (of Jesus)*. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Christ."

Can you believe it? These first followers of Jesus never wavered in their absolute commitment to Him and to the spreading of the Gospel. How could they do it? Where did they get the courage? The answer is plain. These were not sports fans cheering for their favorite team. They were not members of the Elvis fan club. They were witnesses of Jesus as God in the flesh. What they saw and heard was true, and they knew it with all their hearts and souls. They were convinced that "there is no other name under heaven by which men can be saved."

So what is it that keeps Christians today from being that kind of a bold witness? Why is it that we either get overwhelmed, thinking, "I could never be bold like that," or apathetic, "God will do what He's going to do without my help." We need to ask ourselves some hard questions. Do we really believe that Jesus is the only way a person can ever make it to heaven? Do we believe that God is mighty enough through His Holy Spirit that He can help us talk to others about how they can become a follower of Jesus, just as He did for the Apostles? We should remember Gamaliel's words. If the message is from God, no power on earth is going to be able to stop it. We are not the Apostles, and we are probably never going to perform the kinds of miracles they did, but we can speak about Jesus and live our lives boldly for Him. For what are we waiting?

Aim Questions:

- 1. What things did the Holy Spirit do to emphasize that what the Apostles were saying was from God?** *He gave them boldness before the Sanhedrin. Never stopped preaching and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.*
 - 2. Explain in your own words how the high priest reacted to the preaching of the Apostles. What did God do to protect the Apostles?** *They were jealous of the Apostles. By releasing them from jail.*
 - 3. What happened in the meeting between the Sanhedrin and the Apostles?** *The Apostles spoke with boldness, and were almost stoned. But Gamaliel said that if the Apostles were just zealots then their words would just die out, but if what they were about was from God then nothing that the Council did could stop it.*
 - 4. Who was Gamaliel, and what did he say to the Sanhedrin? What did the Sanhedrin do to the Apostles?** *He was a wise older teacher of the law. Beat them, told them not to preach any more, and let them go.*
 - 5. How could you be more like the Apostles in your school, home, and neighborhood?**
 - 6. Vocabulary words from Acts: Apostle, Sanhedrin, Witness.**
-

 **LOOK**

Apostles' Awesome Adventure (Board Game). Each small group of 3 to 6 students will need:

2.ACT05EL.GF4 Pgs. 1-3

a teacher or helper to read the rules and ask the questions
colored markers
dice

Assemble game board by placing **Pgs. 2 & 3** side by side and overlapping in the middle. Secure with tape or glue. This can also be copied onto 11 X 17 paper.

A.C.T.S. 5:12-5:42 (Worksheet). Use this worksheet as a guide for a discussion, **2.ACT05EL.GF5**. Name the Apostles who were preaching. In what city were the Apostles? What happened to the Apostles while they were preaching? What gave the Apostles their boldness and power to heal the sick? How were the Apostles released from jail? .

Acts 5:29 (Worksheet). Use this worksheet to review today's lesson and memory verse. As a class, read the clues together and cross out the words that don't belong. Write the remaining words from left to right to reveal the memory verse, **2.ACT05EL.GF6**.

God or Man (Worksheet). Read the following statements out loud, then have the students draw a star in the blank to the left of the statement if it is an action powered by God. If the statement is of man, have them mark it with a checkmark, **2.ACT05EL.GF7**. *Note: Teachers use this time to talk with the students about each of the items in the worksheet. Reading the passages together as you go through the worksheet together and asking simple questions to go with the statements will drive the point of the lesson home for the students.*

Apostles Freed (Activity/Worksheet). Each student will need:

2.ACT05EL.GF8 Pgs. 1 & 2 copied onto white cardstock
scissors
coloring crayons

Have the students follow the instructions to re-create what happened to the Apostles when the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. A sample is available in the Resource room.

And Then What Happened? (Worksheet). Use this worksheet to review the events of today's lesson. First read all the events out loud to the class. Then, have the students number the events in the order that they occurred, as you reread the events. The first one is done for you, **2.ACT05EL.GF9**.

Aim Questions (Worksheet). Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2.ACT05EL.GF10**.



TOOK

Be Encouraged! (Discussion). Review the events of today's story. *(To facilitate this review, you might use 2.ACT05EL.GF9 because it gives the events of the story in easy to use sentences.)* What should we remember from this passage that will help us to be bold in our witness? Ideas: The angel's words remind us to "tell the people the full message of this new life." ***We don't need to be afraid of even the most intimidating people (Acts. 5:41-42).*** God protects His witnesses as He did the Apostles. It's a privilege to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. Brainstorm on the board reasons to be bold.

Obey God Rather Than Men (Discussion). Peter was a man who believed in obedience to authority. In the second chapter of his first epistle, he says, "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh" (1 Peter 2:13, 14, 17, 18). Peter didn't take it lightly when he had to defy the Sanhedrin's order not to speak of Jesus.

There are times when we must "obey God rather than men," but the only actual examples of this that we have in Scripture are in Acts. Read Acts 4:17-20 and 5:27-29. In both cases, what was the command that the Apostles had to disobey?

What can we learn from their behavior and attitude? They behaved with respect. Even though they had to disobey the chief priests and elders, they continued to try to win them to Christ. The Apostles joyfully accepted the punishment for disregarding the Sanhedrin's orders.

Debrief: *Teachers, please think over several authority issues beforehand that can be discussed. These issues should be instances that may very well occur in students' lives today.*

1. What has God asked us to obey?
2. When is it wrong to disobey authority?
3. When is it right to disobey authority?

Obeying God (Worksheet). How can you be more like the Apostles at home, at school and in your neighborhood? List people for whom you can pray. Create a plan to witness to this person. Pray for the boldness to witness, **2.ACT05EL.GF11.**

This is not available at this time for Faith Bible Church curriculum.

A.C.T.S. Action Cards (Workbook). Continue to reinforce the acrostic, **ACTS**, with the Apostle action cards. These are the stats from Acts 5:14-42:

- A.** All the Apostles.
- C.** In the city of Jerusalem.
- T.** Jailed by the Sanhedrin.
- S.** Gave boldness to obey God rather than men.

Apostles Released



Gamaliel Addressing the Council



Apostles Leaving After Being Beaten



Apostles' Awesome Adventure Game

RULES

Play in small groups (3 to 6 players). Roll a single die. Mark your progress with different colored marking pens by placing an "X" on the last space counted.

If you land on a question space and answer it correctly, you may roll again. If your answer is incorrect, your turn is over and movement continues forward on your next turn.

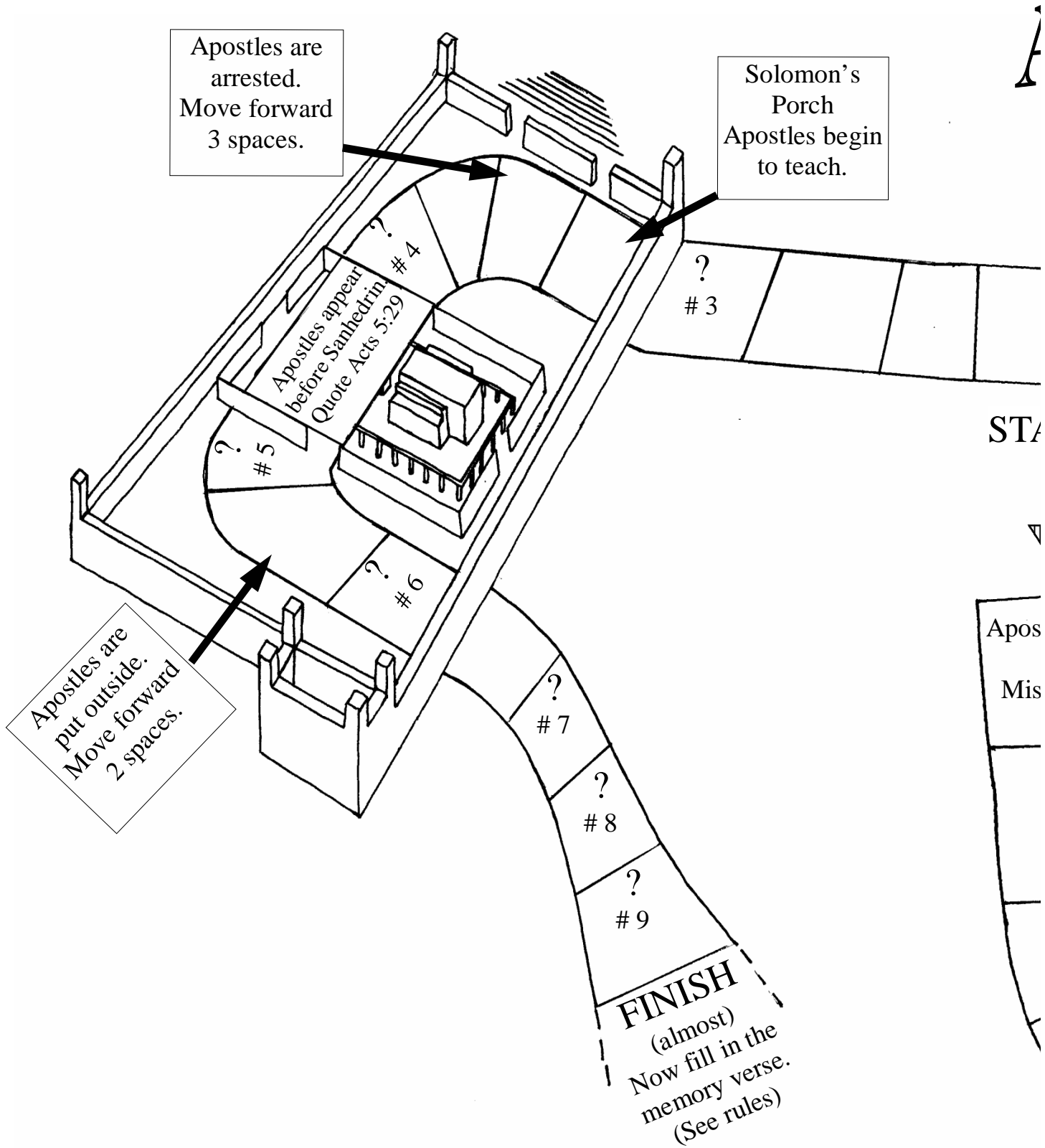
To finish the game, **fill in the memory verse**: "We must obey God rather than men" by rolling the die. You may fill in all the words that have the same number of letters as the number you roll. Be careful; if you miss an eligible word, you must roll that number again. Example: When you roll a four, you may fill in 'must,' 'obey,' and 'than.' **The player who fills in the most words of the memory verse wins the game.**

QUESTIONS

1. The sick people were hoping for something to fall on them. What was it?
2. Who said, "Go, stand in the temple courts, and tell the people the full message of this new life"?
3. When officers were sent to the jail to bring the Apostles for questioning, who did they find standing at the doors?
4. Why were the temple officers careful not to use force when they arrested the Apostles once more as they taught at Solomon's porch?
5. What did the Chief Priest and elders want to do after Peter reminded them that they had killed Jesus and claimed to be a witness to His death and resurrection?
6. Who said, "Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God"?
7. After the Apostles were flogged, what familiar order was given to them?
8. As the Apostles left the Sanhedrin, why were they rejoicing?
9. What did the Apostles continue to do without ever stopping?

ANSWERS

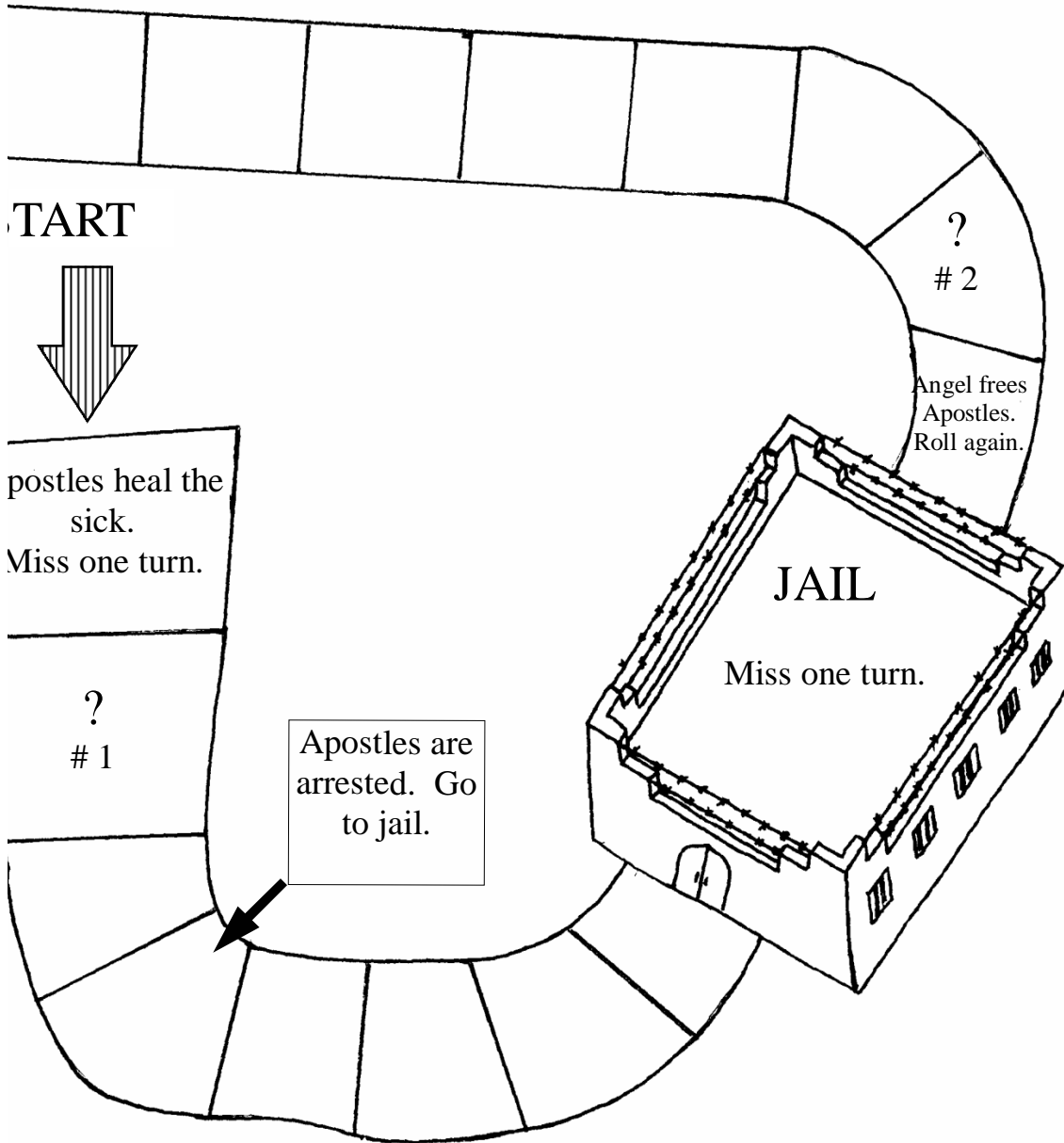
1. Peter's shadow
2. The angel who released the Apostles from prison
3. Only the prison guards (who were unaware of the jailbreak)
4. They were afraid the people would stone them
5. They wanted to put the Apostles to death
6. A Pharisee named Gamaliel
7. They were ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus
8. They had been counted worthy to suffer for the Name (of Jesus)
9. They proclaimed the Good News that Jesus is the Christ



Peter and the other Apostles replied:

“ _____ .

Apostles' Awesome Adventure Game



!”

A. C. T. S.

5:12 - 5:42

Apostles – Name the Apostles who were preaching.

City – In what city were the Apostles?

Trials/troubles – What happened to the Apostles while they were preaching?

Spirit – What gave the Apostles their boldness and power to heal the sick?
How were the Apostles released from jail?

“Peter and the other Apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men!’”

Acts 5:29

Acts 5:29

Ananias	Peter	Judea	and
the	Prayer	other	fellowship
Asia	Apostles	replied	Cappadocia
We	breaking bread	salvation	must
obey	Sapphira	God	rather
than	Egypt	teaching	men

Cross out the following items from the chart above:

Two people who lied to God	Four countries of people mentioned at Pentecost	Four things the early church devoted themselves to doing	One thing that can only be found in Jesus Christ
----------------------------	---	--	--

With the squares that are left, read from left to right. Fill in the blanks below with these words.

“ _____
 _____ : ‘ _____
 _____ !’” Acts 5:29

GOD OR MAN

Read the following statements. If the action is powered by God, mark it with a .
If the action is of man, mark it with a .

_____ The Apostles performing many miraculous signs and wonders. Acts 5:12

_____ The high priest and the Sadducees being filled with jealousy. Acts 5:17

_____ More and more men and women believing in the Lord. Acts 5:14

_____ The Apostles arrested and put in the public jail. Acts 5:18

_____ Peter's shadow falling on the sick and healing them. Acts 5:15-16

_____ Orders to the Apostles not to teach in Jesus' name. Acts 5:28

_____ Jail doors opening and the Apostles being freed. Acts 5:19

_____ Theudas appearing and claiming to be someone. Acts 5:36

_____ Jesus raised from the dead. Acts 5:30

_____ Judas the Galilean leading a band of people in revolt. Acts 5:37

_____ Jesus forgiving Israel's sins. Acts 5:31

_____ The Apostles being called in and flogged. Acts 5:40

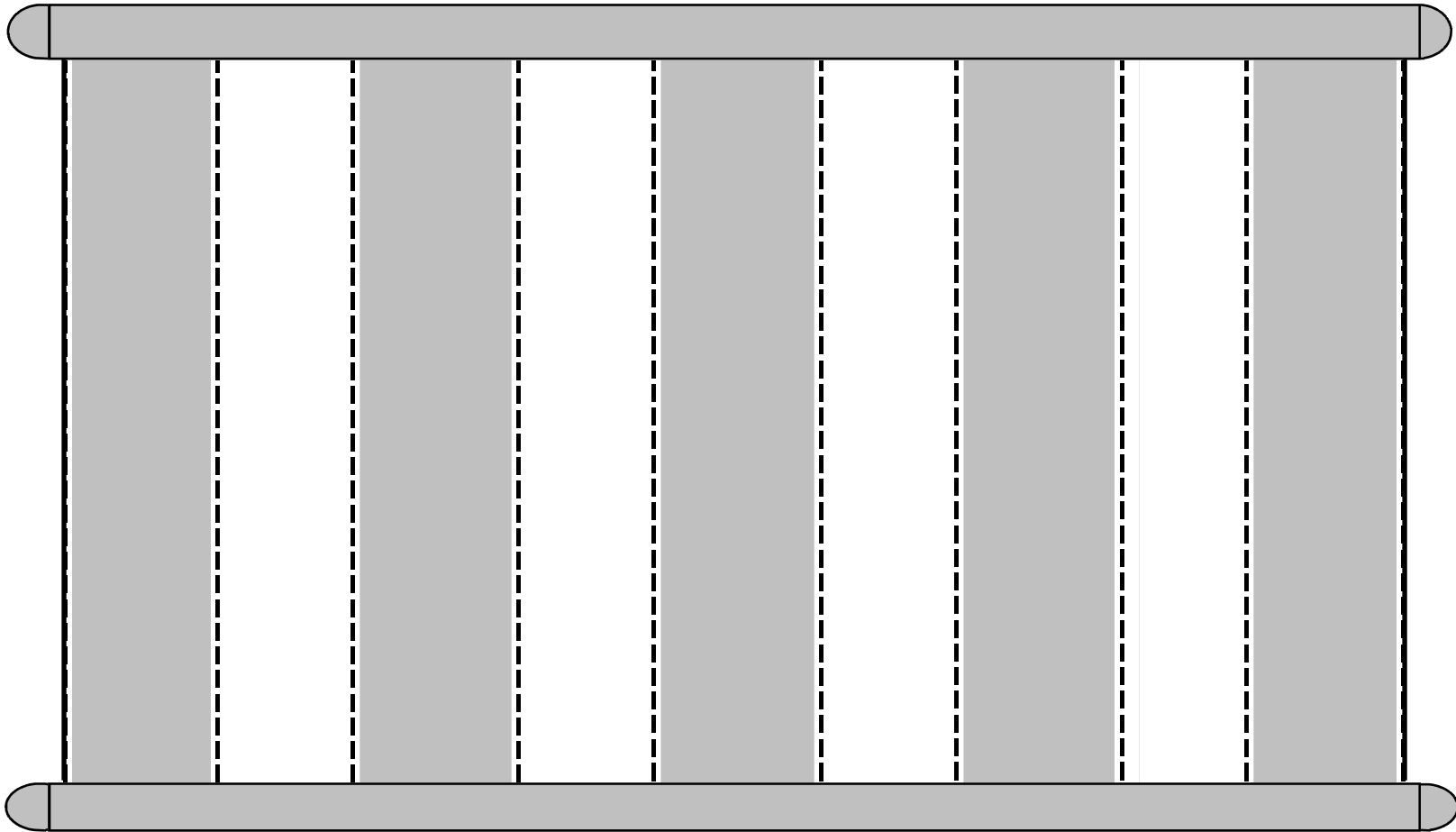
_____ The Apostles rejoicing because they have been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for Jesus' name. Acts 5:41

**“PETER AND THE OTHER APOSTLES REPLIED: ‘WE
MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN!’”**

ACTS 5:29

2.ACT05EL.GF7

Apostles Freed



“But during the night, an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.”

Acts 5:19



1. Color the four picture strips of the Apostles above. Cut out the entire shape with pull tab attached.
2. Cut on the dotted lines of the jail on Pg. 1.
3. Starting on the right hand side, weave the picture of the Apostles **over** the top of the white spaces of the jail.
4. When the tab is pulled, the Apostles disappear.

And Then What Happened? Acts 5:14-41

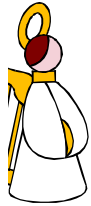
Number the events in the order that they occurred. The first one is done for you.



_____ The high priest sent for the Apostles. The officers found the jail locked and guarded, but no one was inside.



_____ The Apostles were reminded that they were told not to teach about Jesus, but Peter and the other Apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than men."



_____ An angel opened the doors of the jail and released the Apostles with encouragement to go back to the temple and tell the message of "this new life."



1

Sick people came to the Apostles and were healed. Some thought that if Peter's shadow fell on them, they would be healed.



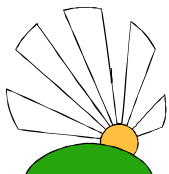
_____ Someone reported that the Apostles were teaching in the temple, and they were brought before the Sanhedrin.



_____ The high priest and Sadducees had the Apostles arrested and put in jail.



_____ The Apostles were sent outside, and Gamaliel wisely advised the council to let the men go and see what God would do.



_____ At daybreak the Apostles went to the temple and began to teach.



_____ The Apostles were threatened, beaten and released. They praised God for the privilege of suffering for Jesus' name. They never stopped spreading the Good News.

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. What things did the Holy Spirit do to emphasize that what the Apostles were saying was from God?
2. Explain in your own words how the high priest reacted to the preaching of the Apostles. What did God do to protect them?
3. What happened in the meeting between the Sanhedrin and the Apostles?
4. Who was Gamaliel, and what did he say to the Sanhedrin? What did the Sanhedrin do to the Apostles?
5. How could you be more like the Apostles in your school, home, and neighborhood?
6. Vocabulary words from Acts: Apostle, Sanhedrin, Witness.

*God has given believers a job to do.
As a believer God expects us to share Christ
with a world that is lost.*

**Acts
Chapter
5:17-42**

*"Peter and the other Apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than men!'"
Acts 5:29*

“...we must obey God rather than men!”

Acts 5:29

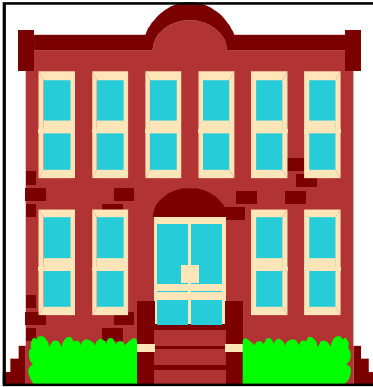
How can you be more like the Apostles in these three areas?

1. Name someone for whom you can be praying.
2. Create a plan to witness to this person.
3. Pray for the boldness to witness.



At Home

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



At Your School

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



In Your Neighborhood

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.