



UNIT 31 | SESSION 1

THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

ACTS 5

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 53:5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus calls His followers to be faithful and tell others about Him, even in times of trouble. Just as Jesus experienced rejection and suffering, so will His followers. We can have joy in suffering, knowing God uses our suffering, like Christ's, for His glory.



LEADER Bible Study

In Acts 5, we find the apostles performing many signs and wonders through the power and grace they received from the Holy Spirit. The healing power of the Holy Spirit displayed through Peter, in particular, was so compelling that people laid the sick in the path of his shadow. United in purpose, the apostles also continued their mission to share the gospel with those around them, and as a result, they filled Jerusalem with their teaching! However, with the favor of their community came the opposition of the Jewish leaders who grew jealous of the apostles' ministry.

How did the early church navigate the ups and downs of their ministering experiences? What choices did they make when faced with rejection and suffering?

Instead of cowering to the demands of the religious leaders to stop sharing the gospel, the apostles rejoiced in being counted worthy of mistreatment in Jesus' name. They continued to be faithful to Jesus' command to share the gospel and, leaving directly from the presence of the Sanhedrin, they made a daily practice of preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ in the temple and from house to house.

Even when the apostles experienced persecution and shameful mistreatment, the

power of God at work was evidenced in their boldness to continue to preach the name of Jesus. Amidst many uncertainties and challenging circumstances, they remained steadfastly assured of the power of the gospel to save anyone who believes. On this truth they placed their hope as they rejoiced in their suffering.

As you prepare to teach this session to your kids, consider all that the apostles endured as they sought to share God's Word so that people might hear and believe in the name of Jesus. If you find yourself in a difficult circumstance, thank God for their example of endurance despite times of trouble. Help the kids you teach understand that when we face rejection and suffering, Christ remains near to us, just as He did to His church so long ago. We, too, can count it all joy as we face trials and trust that Jesus is worth giving our lives to.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Gamaliel: Gamaliel I, a highly regarded Pharisee who was a member of the Sanhedrin and teacher of Paul (Acts 22:3)



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper, Allergy Alert.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "From Jail to the Temple" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ hardcover books, 1 per kid
- ☐ small plastic balls or marbles, 1 per kid



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "The Apostles Were Arrested" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 31, Session 1" questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ world map
- ☐ "Overview of Europe" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "By His Wounds (Isaiah 53:5)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ sticky notes, 1 per kid



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ "Europe Photos" printable
- ☐ large sheet of bulletin board paper
- ☐ yarn
- ☐ painter's tape

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ Gospel Plan poster
- ☐ wax paper, 1 piece per kid
- ☐ play dough, 1 canister per kid

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever had to tell someone a message several times before he or she understood it? What were you saying? Why was this message important for you to tell?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “From Jail to the Temple” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn how Jesus’ followers obeyed His command to go and share the good news even when they were arrested.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: GONE!



Lead kids to sit in a circle. Tell kids that they will need to close their eyes and when you tap one kid on the shoulder, he will step outside the room with another leader or hide somewhere in the room where kids cannot see him. Prompt kids to close their eyes. Then quietly tap one kid and escort him to a hiding place. Remind the kids to keep their eyes closed and remain quiet. Direct kids to open their eyes and guess which kid is now gone. Play as time allows.

SAY “Each time we opened our eyes, someone was gone. Today, we will learn how the apostles were arrested, but when the religious leaders’ servants came to get them, the apostles were gone. Let’s learn why the apostles were no longer in the jail.”

☐ OPTION 2: BALANCING ACT

Provide each kid with a hardcover book and a small plastic ball or a marble. (A marble will be more challenging.) Tell kids that they must walk from one side of the room to the other while balancing the ball or marble on the book. Explain that if the ball or marble falls off they must begin again. Repeat as time allows and challenge kids to see how quickly they can walk while balancing the ball or marble.

(Tip: For an additional challenge, provide kids with more than one ball or marble and lead them to balance them on the book while they walk.)

SAY “It was a challenge to balance the ball or marble, wasn’t it? But you kept trying even though it wasn’t easy. Sometimes we’ll have moments in life when we have to keep going even though it’s difficult. Today, we will learn how the apostles kept sharing the gospel even when it was hard.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Welcome, kids! I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name], and I am looking forward to sharing a story from God’s Word with you today. If you have your Bibles, will you take them out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

Our Bible story today can be found in the book of Acts. The book of Acts is in the New Testament. Today, we will learn how Jesus’ apostles, the men sent by Jesus, obeyed His command to go and share the good news—even when it was hard. The apostles wanted to share the gospel because it is how people can know and believe in Jesus.”

worship

* I Thank God * offering.
* By His wounds

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “We have a new big picture question to learn: Why did Jesus become human? The answer we will learn is, Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners. Jesus’ perfect obedience to His Father is good news! We all need to be rescued from sin and without Jesus becoming a man, we would be dead in our sins.

The Bible tells us that Jesus obeyed God in every way, even dying on the cross for our sin. Jesus loves us and came to earth so that we can be saved. Today, we will learn how the apostles wanted everyone to know Jesus and trust in Him.”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “After Jesus returned to heaven, the apostles went out into Jerusalem and shared the good news. Because of this, the early church began to grow as many people believed in Jesus and were saved from their sin. But as the church grew, the religious leaders tried to stop them from sharing Jesus. The Jewish leaders hurt believers and made threats against them, all because they shared about Jesus. Even still, the apostles obeyed the command to go and tell, and God used their obedience to help even more people trust in Jesus. Today, we will learn how the apostles didn’t stop sharing the gospel even when they were arrested.”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story



1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 5. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Apostles Were Arrested.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

“Peter and John had been arrested and released, yet they did not stop telling people the good news about Jesus. **The apostles were doing many signs and wonders among the people at the temple, and more and more people believed in the Lord.**

People carried those who were sick into the street. They hoped that when Peter walked by, his shadow might fall on the people and heal them. Crowds of people came, bringing those who were sick or suffering. **All of them were healed.**

The high priest and other religious leaders were very jealous, so they arrested Jesus’ apostles and put them in jail. But that night, an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought out the apostles. The angel told them, “Go and stand in the temple, and tell the people all about this life.” So the next morning, the apostles went into the temple and began to teach.

That next day, the high priest and other religious leaders met together. They ordered their servants to go to the jail and bring the apostles to them. When the servants got to the jail, the jail doors were locked and guarded. **But when they went inside, the apostles weren’t there.** The leaders were confused.

Then someone came to them and said, “The apostles are teaching in the temple!” So the religious leaders brought the apostles before them and said, “Didn’t we tell you to stop teaching about Jesus? Everyone in Jerusalem has heard!”

Peter responded, “We must obey God rather than people. God raised Jesus to life after you killed Him on the cross. Jesus is our Ruler and Savior. He came to change people’s hearts and forgive their sins. The Holy Spirit, whom God gives to everyone who believes, proves this is true.”

The Jewish leaders were angry and wanted to kill Peter and the other apostles. But one of the religious leaders, Gamaliel, told them, “Men of Israel, you have to be careful. Other men have claimed to be important, but their plans failed. If these men are lying and you leave them alone, their plans will fail too. But if their words are from God, you won’t be able to stop them.”

The Jewish leaders agreed with Gamaliel. Instead of killing Jesus’ apostles, **they beat them and told them to stop talking about Jesus.** Then they let them go free. **The apostles left, praising God for being counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus.** Every day, in the temple and in people’s homes, **the apostles continued to**

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display emotion: Show the emotions of the different people in the story as you tell it. Emphasize the great joy the apostles had as they delighted in being counted worthy to suffer for Jesus.

Use movement: Walk from one side of the room to the other as you teach how the apostles were rescued from jail and went to the temple.



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preach about Jesus. They told people the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Christ Connection: Jesus calls His followers to be faithful and tell others about Him, even in times of trouble. Just as Jesus experienced rejection and suffering, so will His followers. We can have joy in suffering, knowing God uses our suffering, like Christ's, for His glory. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY ” As the apostles obeyed Jesus' command to share the good news, they began to face hardships. But they never stopped sharing the gospel. Many people were coming to the apostles for healing and the religious leaders became jealous. So they arrested the apostles and put them in jail. What happened the night the apostles were arrested? **[Allow responses.]** God sent an angel to rescue them! The angel told the apostles to go to the temple and teach about Jesus. The apostles continued to share the good news even though others tried to stop them.

The religious leaders were very angry when they heard that the apostles continued to preach about Jesus. They told them not to teach about Jesus ever again. But Peter said they must obey God rather than men. Then the religious leaders beat the apostles. What did the apostles do after being beaten? **[Allow responses.]** They rejoiced that they were worthy to suffer for their obedience to Jesus. Even though the religious leaders told the apostles to stop teaching, they continued to obey God and share the good news in the temple and house to house.

The apostles shared the good news even when they faced challenges because they wanted to obey God. Jesus wants all His followers to tell others about Him, even in times of trouble. He is worthy of our obedience because He is our Lord. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY ” Jesus calls His followers to be faithful and tell others about Him, even in times of trouble. Just as Jesus experienced rejection and suffering, so will His followers. We can have joy in suffering, knowing God uses our suffering, like Christ's, for His glory. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 31, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can you be brave even when you are scared?
2. Why can we praise God at all times, even when we feel scared?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display a world map as you tell kids about the continent of Europe.

SAY ” Europe is the second smallest continent and contains over 40 different countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Finland. **[Point to different European countries on a world**



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

map.] Europe has a rich history of arts, music, and many famous attractions such as the Eiffel Tower in France and the Colosseum in Italy. It is even home to many beautiful church buildings, including the world's largest cathedral called St. Peter's Basilica. Yet even with many beautiful cathedrals, many people have not trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord. 🗺️

Play the missions video. Explain that while many European countries have many beautiful attractions, Christians need to pray that the people of Europe will see Jesus as most beautiful and trust in Him for salvation. Pray that new churches will be started in Europe and more people will be willing to learn more about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 53:5 together.

SAY 🗨️ Our key passage reminds us that Jesus suffered to save us from our sins. He became a man to die on the cross and rescue us from sin and death. 🗨️

Form kids into groups of four. Assist groups in looking up Isaiah 53:5 in their Bibles. Provide each kid with a sticky note and a pencil. Assign kids in each group words from the key passage to write on their sticky notes. Then lead kids to close their Bibles and place their sticky notes in order of the key passage.

Lead kids to sing "By His Wounds (Isaiah 53:5)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

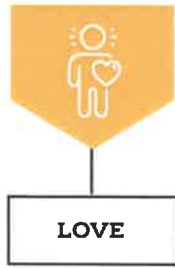
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY 🗨️ Thank You, Lord, for saving us from our sins and giving us good news to share with others. Help us obey You even when we face hardships. In Jesus' name, amen. 🗨️

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

▶ **LOVE** God by Applying the Story

1 **REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS** (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Acts 5. Remind kids that the book of Acts begins with Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit right before He went back to heaven. Explain that the book of Acts records the beginning of the church. Share how the early church began to grow as the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to share the gospel.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H4) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 5:29.

SAY 🗨️ Obeying God can be hard, especially when obeying Him means we might face challenges. But the apostles understood that it was more important to obey God and please Him than it was to obey the religious leaders who wanted them to stop sharing about Jesus. God is more important than anyone, and His way is always best. God loves us and when we obey Him, we show that we love Him too. Like the apostles, we must share Jesus, even if it is hard. God gives us joy even in suffering. 🗨️

2 **GROUP DISCUSSION** (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ How did God show He is greater than the religious leaders' plans? 🗨️

Discuss how God sent His angel to free the apostles in prison and that He gave them boldness to keep preaching. Remind kids that the apostles also rejoiced even when they suffered, showing that God is greater and better than any hardship.

SAY 🗨️ How can we trust God during hard times? 🗨️

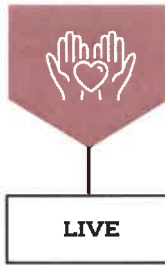
Prompt kids to think about how the gospel helps us trust God because we know that no matter what happens in this life, we have the hope of life forever with Jesus. Discuss how God's promises are always true, and He promised that He would be with us no matter what we face. Tell kids that God also gives us the Holy Spirit to help us trust Him.

SAY 🗨️ Should you ever stop sharing the good news about Jesus? Why not? 🗨️

Remind kids that Jesus not only commanded His followers to share the gospel, but that telling others about Jesus is how they will hear and believe. Encourage kids to remember that even if others make fun of us or tell us to be quiet or don't understand, we are honoring God and taking part in His plan to help people trust in Jesus.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 **ACTIVITY CHOICE** (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: EUROPE MURAL**



Explain that Europe has many popular historical sites that attract tourists from all over the world. Lead kids to create a mural of some of these popular landmarks using the “Europe Photos” printable. Direct kids to create the mural by assisting you in taping a large sheet of bulletin board paper on a wall using painter’s tape. Then tape the map of Europe from the “Europe Photos” to the center of the bulletin board sheet.

Form kids into five groups and provide each group with a photo from the “Europe Photos” and a piece of yarn. Direct each group to locate the country where their photo is found as indicated on the printable. Then lead kids to tape the photo to the bulletin board and tape the yarn from the photo to the location on the map.

SAY “Over the next few weeks, as we learn about Europe, we can use our mural to be reminded to pray for the people of Europe. We can pray that the people who live in Europe will trust in Jesus.”

☐ **OPTION 2: BUILD IT!**



Lead kids to better understand the gospel message and how to share it with their friends by reviewing Gospel Plan poster. Direct kids to sit around tables and distribute a piece of wax paper and some play dough to each kid. Go through each step of The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me. Challenge kids to use their dough to make a shape for each point. For “God Rules” challenge kids to mold a crown, for “We Sinned” a X, for “God Provided” a cross, for “Jesus Gives” a gift box, and for “We Respond” hands. If time allows form kids into pairs and challenge them to walk through each step together.

SAY “The apostles obeyed God and shared the gospel with others. God calls us to share about Jesus as well. Sometimes, we might be nervous or even afraid to share. We can trust that God will help us, and we can pray that others will hear and believe.”

2 **REFLECTION AND PRAYER** (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.