SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

# Acts

## *Chapter 5*

*We Must Obey God Rather Than Men*

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 5:29

*"But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.""*

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

# This week in Acts 5

Acts 5 shows a God who is holy enough to see through every pretense and strong enough to open every prison. This week He invites you to stop pretending, to obey Him first, and to discover the strange joy of carrying a little shame for the name of Jesus.

**How to use this journal**

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

**What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?**

DAY 1 OF 5

# Nothing Kept Back

READ · ACTS 5:1–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did Ananias and Sapphira do with the money, what did Peter say the land was before and after it was sold, and who did Peter say they had lied to (5:2–4)?**

REFLECT

**Peter told Ananias the land was his to keep (5:4); the sin was pretending. Where are you tempted to let people think you are further along than you really are?**

REFLECT

**"Great fear came over the whole church" (5:11). What is the difference between being scared of God and standing in awe of Him — and which describes you right now?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Tell one trusted brother one true thing you have been keeping back, and then thank God that He already knew and still calls you His.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 5:29)

DAY 2 OF 5

# One Accord

READ · ACTS 5:12–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**Where were the believers meeting, how did outsiders respond to them, and what happened to the sick who were brought (5:12–16)?**

REFLECT

**The church was "all with one accord" right after a hard judgment (5:12). What keeps you from pulling closer to God's people when things get hard?**

REFLECT

**People hoped even Peter's shadow would help (5:15), but it was the Lord who healed. Where do you lean on a man, a method or a ritual instead of on Jesus Himself?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Pray by name for one sick or hurting person you know, and do one practical thing to help him or her today.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 5:29)

DAY 3 OF 5

# Locked Doors

READ · ACTS 5:17–26

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**Why did the high priest arrest the apostles, what did the angel tell them to do, and what did the officers find when they opened the prison (5:17–23)?**

REFLECT

**The angel freed them and sent them straight back to the most dangerous place in town (5:20). What has God set you free from, and what is He sending you back to do?**

REFLECT

**The rulers were "filled with jealousy" (5:17). Whose success or freedom have you resented, and what would it look like to hand that over to God?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Write down one "locked door" in your life — a habit, a fear, a situation — and pray over it: "Lord, locked doors are nothing to You."**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 5:29)

DAY 4 OF 5

# Obey God First

READ · ACTS 5:27–32

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What had the Council ordered, how did Peter answer, and what two titles does Peter give Jesus (5:28–31)?**

REFLECT

**Peter said, "We must obey God rather than men" (5:29). Where does obeying God put you at odds with what people around you expect — and where are you just being stubborn?**

REFLECT

**Jesus is exalted "as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance … and forgiveness of sins" (5:31). Is there an area where you want Him to save you but not to rule you?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Ask Jesus today, in your own words, for the gift of repentance in one specific area, and then take one step of obedience in it.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 5:29)

DAY 5 OF 5

# Counted Worthy

READ · ACTS 5:33–42

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

**What did Gamaliel warn the Council about, what did they do to the apostles anyway, and how did the apostles respond (5:38–42)?**

REFLECT

**The apostles left the flogging "rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name" (5:41). What shame or mockery have you faced for following Jesus, and how have you carried it?**

REFLECT

**Gamaliel said, "if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them" (5:39). How does that promise steady you when your faith or your ministry feels small and under attack?**

RESPOND — TODAY

**Do what the apostles did the next day (5:42): tell one person something true about Jesus, even if it costs you a little.**

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 5:29)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

# Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

**Barnabas and Ananias both laid money at the apostles' feet (4:37; 5:2). How can a group like ours make it safe to be honest instead of impressive?**

FOR THE GROUP · 2

**The apostles were respectful but would not be silenced (5:26, 29). What does it look like for a man to be both submissive to authority and bold for Christ in the places we live and work?**

FOR THE GROUP · 3

**Gamaliel took a wait-and-see position about Jesus (5:38–39). Where do men stay on the fence about Christ, and what would you say to a friend who is still there?**

MY PRAYER

**Holy Spirit, You see everything I have kept back, so today I lay it at Your feet and ask You to…**

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 5:29

*"But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.""*