

Small Group / Family Discussion Guide

Boldly Unchained: The Power of God's Message

ACTS: The Church In Motion, Week 15 | Acts 5:17-26 (ESV)

Memory Verse

"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." **Acts 5:20 (ESV)**

Observation

What does the text say? Read Acts 5:17-26 together before discussing.

- What happens to the apostles in verses 17-18, and what motivates the high priest to act (v. 17)?
- What does the angel tell the apostles to do in verses 19-20, and when do they obey (v. 21)?
- What do the officers discover when they return to the prison in verses 22-23?
- How do the chief priests and the captain of the temple respond in verses 24-26?

Understanding

What does the text mean?

- Why does Luke specifically name the high priest's motive as jealousy (v. 17) rather than a doctrinal disagreement?
- The angel could have simply set the apostles free. Why send them right back to the same temple courts where they were arrested (v. 20)?
- What is significant about the prison being "securely locked" with guards "standing at the doors," yet the cell is empty (v. 23)?
- What does verse 26 reveal about who was actually afraid in this story, and why is that surprising?

Personal Reflection

- Where in your own life do you sense a door closing around your witness for Christ, a conversation, a relationship, a workplace, where speaking up would cost you something?
- Whose approval or disapproval most shapes how boldly, or how quietly, you live out your faith?
- Is there a "whole message" you have been trimming down to make it safer or more comfortable to share?

Application

- What is one specific place this week where God may be calling you to speak boldly rather than stay silent?
- How can this group pray for and support each other in moving toward that kind of courage rather than away from it?

Family Application

- With your kids, talk about a time you were scared to do something you knew was right. What helped you do it anyway?
- Read Acts 5:19-20 together as a family. Ask: what do you think it means that God can open doors nobody else can open?
- Practice reciting the memory verse together this week, and talk about what "the whole message of this Life" means for your family.