



Week 7: February 21-27

Welcome/ Introduce Guests/ Share Life (10 minutes)

Recall the Guidelines/ Open in Prayer

Share the Vision (2 minutes): Loving people well is how the world knows that we are different. Let us continue to develop a culture of love in our group this week.

Hook Question (5 minutes): When was a time you have witnessed something that you had to tell other people about?

Ask someone to read the background for the story (2 minutes):

Since its inception, people have tried to stop the spread of Christianity. This started when the chief priests and elders tried to pay off the Roman soldiers who witnessed Jesus' resurrection. Despite knowing the prophecy of the Messiah's resurrection and hearing about its fulfillment from eyewitnesses, these Jewish leaders continued to harden their hearts towards the truth. Then they lied about what took place so people would not believe that Jesus rose from the dead.

But man cannot stop what God has intended. Not long after Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Holy Spirit came in power on the disciples (aka apostles) on Pentecost. That day Peter preached the good news to the masses and 3,000 people surrendered their lives to Jesus. The Holy Spirit was working powerfully through the apostles to show their testimony was true. The signs and wonders they performed showed the authority God had given them to carry out the mission Jesus (who is God) gave them. As a result, many held the apostles in high esteem and multitudes of people began to follow Jesus.

This did not please the high priest and other spiritual leaders of the day. Even though the apostles did not intend to threaten the high priest's authority, the movement they were leading was viewed as such. Something had to be done. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Acts 5:17-42 (12 Minutes for section): Change the storyteller often.

Rebuild the Story: Group members retell the story as well as possible.

Read the story from Acts 5:17-42 Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: Learn to talk about God's word with others.

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach you about yourself or people in general?
- What does this story teach you about God?
- What keeps you from sharing with others what God has done for you?
- How is the Holy Spirit challenging you through this story?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in Prayer.