



# ACTS

Of All the Apostles

## **You Will Be My Witnesses:**

Running the Race

## **Lesson 12**



# Arrest and Rescue

Acts 5:17-32

## Supplemental Scripture

Acts 4:23-31  
Philippians 1:12-14  
Hebrews 12:1-2  
Hebrews 5:8-9  
John 14:15-27  
Romans 6:8-17  
John 3:30-36

## Memory Verse

We must obey God  
instead of people!  
Acts 5:29 (NirV)

## Lesson Goals

Understand that loving  
God expresses itself in  
obedience

Understand that  
obedience to God is more  
important than obedience  
to man

Understand that  
difficulties will come in  
our lives

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

What have you learned so far about running the race? To run the race you have to start running. Running the race well means sharing with others and helping them. Integrity is also important. Is running the race always easy? No. And if the situation looks difficult or hopeless, what do you do then? Let's see what the apostles did.

Do you remember, that after the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira, the apostles were able to teach and the church continued to grow, even though some people chose not to follow Jesus. But there were over 5,000 new believers by this time and not everyone was happy about this.

Some of the temple leaders were jealous and angry. Even the highest leader, the high priest, was angry. He and his friends were all called Sadducees. The Sadducees' name comes from a word that means "righteous," but they were anything but, even though they were leaders in the temple. They were wealthy and important, but they were hypocrites. The high priest and his friends, as well as other temple leaders, were part of a group called the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the Jewish Supreme Court, it was their court of "justice." What the Sanhedrin decided was the final word and by the time of Jesus, as well as the early church, the Sanhedrin had the power to make arrests. So in their jealousy and anger, the high priest and his friends had Peter and the other apostles arrested just as they had done before. They were again put in the public prison in Jerusalem.

During the night, an angel of the Lord came. He opened the prison doors and set the apostles free. The angel spoke and gave the apostles instructions. He said, "Go! Stand in the temple courtyard. Tell the people about this new life." (Acts 5:20 NirV) The apostles were obedient. The next morning they entered the temple courtyard and taught the people.

## Application

Acts 5:32 says that, “God has given the Spirit to those who obey Him.” Is that you? If not, will you take the advice of the apostles and accept that Jesus died on the cross for your sins? Then you can ask for forgiveness. When you choose to obey and follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit will be given to you!

And if you do have the Holy Spirit, what can you learn from the leaders of the early church? How do you handle difficult situations? Do you just stay quiet so that you can stay out of trouble? Or, do you stand up for what is right no matter what?

Have you committed to obey God instead of people? What does that mean? Does it mean that you don’t have to listen to your parents or teachers? No. It means that when someone tells you to do something that contradicts, or goes against, what you know God has said, God is the one to be obeyed. Won’t you commit to obey God no matter what happens?

And are you telling people about this “new life” that God has given you? If not, who can you tell today?

Meanwhile, the Sanhedrin had convened in the great court at the temple. They sent to the prison for the apostles, but obviously they weren’t there! The officers of the Sanhedrin came back and reported, “We found the prison locked up tight. The guards were standing at the doors. But when we opened the doors, we didn’t find anyone inside.” (Acts 5:23 NIV) They weren’t real sure how this could have happened. Then someone came up and said, “The men you put in prison are standing here teaching in the temple courtyard.”

The apostles were brought inside and questioned. “We gave you clear orders before not to teach in Jesus’ name,” said the high priest. “Instead, Jerusalem is filled with your teaching and you are trying to make us guilty of Jesus’ death.”

Peter and the other apostles answered the high priest, “We must obey God instead of people!” (Acts 5:29 NIV) They continued, “And you are guilty of Jesus’ death. You had him nailed to the cross, but that’s not the end of the story. God raised Jesus from the dead and right now He is sitting at the right hand of God. He did all of this so that He could take away your sins. He does this when you ask for forgiveness of your sins. Then He gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.”

What did Peter and the other apostles do when the situation was difficult? They continued to obey God and they spoke with boldness to those who tried to tell them otherwise. Difficult situations are to be met with boldness. The new believers had prayed specifically for boldness when they knew that the situation was getting worse, and God answered their prayer. (Acts 4:23-31)

## Review

1. What was the Sanhedrin? (the Jewish Supreme Court)
2. How did the high priest and his friends feel about the apostles? (They were jealous and angry.)
3. What did they do? (They arrested Peter and the apostles.)
4. What happened next? (An angel of the Lord freed them.)
5. What did they do after that? (They obeyed God.)

Next Week  
God Raises Up Protection  
Acts 5:33-42

# Preschool Lesson

Do you remember, that after the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira, the apostles were able to teach and the church continued to grow, even though some people chose not to follow Jesus. But there were over 5,000 new believers by this time and not everyone was happy about this.

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Meanwhile, the Sanhedrin was meeting at the temple. They sent for the apostles, but they were not there! The officers came back and reported, "We found the prison locked up tight. The guards were standing at the doors. But when we opened the doors, we didn't find anyone inside." (Acts 5:23 NIV) They weren't real sure how this could have happened. Then someone came up and said, "The men you put in prison are standing here teaching in the temple courtyard."

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# Activities

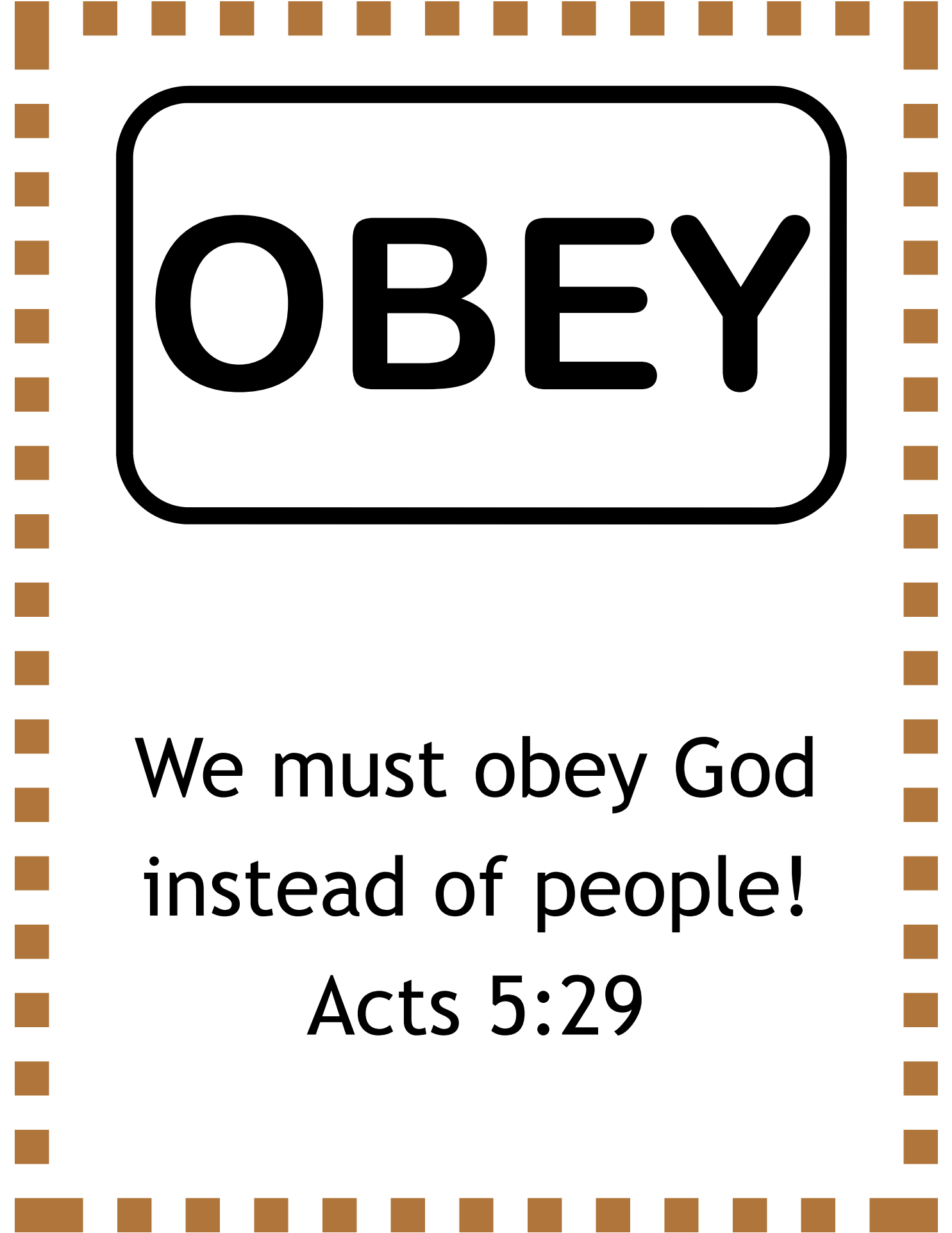
**Memory Verse Activity** - Practice the memory verse by making a chant or rap. For example: “We, We must, We must obey God. We, We must, We must obey God instead of people.”

Run relays. At different intervals put obstacles in the way. Talk about how difficult it was. Discuss how to handle obstacles and difficulties in our lives as we run the race.

What does it mean to obey God? Talk about practical applications. Then look at John 14:15-27. Discuss the verses.

Peter and the apostles heard from God through an angel. Talk about how we hear from God. We can hear from God through teachers and pastors. We can hear from God if we listen while we are praying. Some people even hear from God in dreams! However we hear from God, if it is truly from God, it will **never** contradict His Word, the Bible.

If you haven't already started memorizing Hebrews 12:1-2, begin today. As we talk about running the race, these verses sum it all up. Make Memory Verse Reminders. Print the verses on index cards to send home with your students. Encourage them to place their cards in a prominent place in their homes and to practice them at least three times a day until you meet again next week.



**OBEY**

We must obey God  
instead of people!

Acts 5:29

# Racing Riddles

Jesus died so that He could take away your sins. He does this when you ask for forgiveness of your sins. What happens then?

Fill in the blank with the letter that comes before the letter under the line.

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I F    H J W F T    U I F    I P M Z    T Q J S J U

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U P    U I P T F    X I P    P C F Z    I J N

**OBEY**

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Fill in the blank with the letter that comes before the letter under the line.

H E    G I V E S    T H E    H O L Y    S P I R I T

I F    H J W F T    U I F    I P M Z    T Q J S J U

T O    T H O S E    W H O    O B E Y    H I M .

U P    U I P T F    X I P    P C F Z    I J N

**OBEY**



# Word Search

d a s h s w o n i p d t s t  
r d o g y e b o t s u m e w  
o r a i g m p s f t l m e l  
l t l h l u n i r h p m c d  
e h s h a s e r e l s e u n  
h e i e c t d p e i n a d n  
t a n a e o a c n a b r d i  
f p a p y b o t o t s i a r  
o o g o g u j e a l o u s d  
l s n s r g r e e e t p p e  
e t c t t s e i r p h g i h  
g l e e o s t d e t i a u n  
n e w l i f e r e d e s n a  
a s t s u n p r a s o n e s

Sadducees

high priest

Sanhedrin

temple court

jealous

the apostles

angel of the Lord

prison

free

new life

we must obey God

Peter

# Word Search

d a s h s w o n i p d t s t  
r d o g y e b o t s u m e w  
o r a i g m p s f t l m e l  
l t l h l u n i r h p m c d  
e h s h a s e r e l s e u n  
h e i e c t d p e i n a d n  
t a n a e o a c n a b r d i  
f p a p y b o t o t s i a r  
o o g o g u j e a l o u s d  
l s n s r g r e e e t p p e  
e t c t t s e i r p h g i h  
g l e e o s t d e t i a u n  
n e w l i f e r e d e s n a  
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