



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 13



God Raises Up Protection

Acts 5:33-42

Supplemental Scripture

Philippians 2:5-8
Philippians 3:1-21
Hebrews 12:1-2
1 Peter 2:13-25
1 Peter 3:8-18
1 Peter 4:12-19
Romans 8:5-17
Matthew 5:11-12

Memory Verse

Your attitude should be
the same as that of
Christ Jesus.
Philippians 2:5 (NIV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that the
apostles had done nothing
wrong

Understand that the
apostles were punished

Understand that the
apostles considered it an
honor to suffer for Christ

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.

How would you feel if you had to go outside and run every day? Sounds fun, doesn't it? What about rainy days? What about freezing days or days when the temperature climbs over 100°? How do you think runners feel about running? They seem to be outside running no matter what the weather. It is simply a part of what they do and who they are. How do you feel about doing anything that you don't really want to do or that you feel you don't deserve to do? And what do you do when you are mistreated for doing the right thing? What is your attitude like? Think about that as we find out what happened next with the apostles as they appeared before the Sanhedrin.

After the apostles were freed from prison by an angel of the Lord, they went right back to the Temple and shared about the new life Christ had given them. They were brought back before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish supreme court. They were reminded of the orders they had been given to no longer speak in Jesus' name, but they made it clear that they would obey God rather than the Sanhedrin or any other man. They also accused the Sanhedrin of nailing Jesus to the cross.

When the apostles said this, the members of the Sanhedrin were furious! In fact, they were so furious that they wanted to have the disciples killed - just as they had done with Jesus. In the midst of the confusion and anger, one of the most respected members of the Sanhedrin stood up. His name was Gamaliel and he was a Pharisee. The Pharisees were very powerful and were usually opposed to the Sadducees who were now ruling the Sanhedrin. Gamaliel, though, was respected by everyone - Pharisees and Sadducees alike.

When Gamaliel spoke, they all listened. He asked that the apostles be taken outside for a little while. Gamaliel reminded the leaders of similar cases where men had become popular with the people. On one occasion, a man named Theudas made himself out to be

Application

Did you notice what good attitudes the apostles had? They were mistreated and beaten for obeying God.

1 Peter 3:17 says, “It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil if that’s what God wants.” (NirV)

Who else suffered for doing good? (Hint: He was perfect; He never did anything wrong.)

Jesus! Our memory verse explains that, “your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”

So, how is your attitude? If it is bad, is it that way because you don’t know Jesus as your personal Savior? Wouldn’t you like to? He suffered and died so that you might have an amazing life and eternity with Him. And if you already know Jesus but you still have a bad attitude, won’t you choose today to have the same attitude Jesus had?

And, if you have a good attitude, make the most of it—be like the disciples and don’t stop telling the good news!

very important and about 400 men followed him. But when Theudas died, his followers went away and nothing happened. On another occasion, during the time that the Romans were taking their census, a man named Judas (not the disciple who betrayed Jesus) rose up and some men followed him as well. When he died, his followers also scattered.

So Gamaliel explained, “Let me give you some advice. Leave these men alone! Let them go! If their plans and actions are only human, they will fail. But if their plans come from God, you won’t be able to stop these men. You will only find yourselves fighting against God.” (Acts 5:38-39 NirV) Gamaliel was indeed respected by all. They accepted his advice, but not without having the apostles beaten and forbidding them to speak of Jesus. Then the apostles were released.

We began talking about attitudes and how you react when mistreated. How do you think the apostles reacted? Do you think they left shouting and complaining and angry? The story continues, “The apostles were full of joy as they left the Sanhedrin. They considered it an honor to suffer shame for the name of Jesus.” (Acts 5:41 NirV) Can you imagine? They considered being mistreated for the cause of Christ an honor! Do you think they stopped telling others about Jesus? No! Acts chapter five ends with an account of their activities: “Day after day, they kept teaching in the temple courtyards and from house to house. They never stopped telling the good news that Jesus is the Christ.” (Acts 5:42 NirV)

Review

1. What did the Sanhedrin want to do to the apostles? (They wanted to have them killed.)
2. What happened? (Gamaliel spoke up and gave wise counsel.)
3. What happened to the apostles? (They were beaten and freed.)
4. What attitude did they have? (They were full of joy after being beaten. They considered it an honor to suffer for Jesus.)

Next Week
Leaders are chosen
Acts 6:1-7

Preschool Lesson

After the apostles were freed from prison by an angel of the Lord, they went right back to the Temple and shared about the new life Christ had given them, but they were brought back before the Sanhedrin.

The members of the Sanhedrin were very mad with the apostles! In fact, they were so mad that they wanted to have the disciples killed - just like they had done with Jesus. One of the members of the Sanhedrin stood up. His name was Gamaliel, and everyone liked him.

When Gamaliel spoke, they all listened. He asked that the apostles be taken outside for a little while. Gamaliel reminded the leaders about other people who had become popular with the people. Once they died, though, their followers scattered.

So Gamaliel explained, "Let me give you some advice. Leave these men alone! Let them go! If their plans and actions are only human, they will fail. But if their plans come from God, you won't be able to stop these men. You will only find yourselves fighting against God." (Acts 5:38-39 NIV) They took his advice, but they had the apostles beaten and told them to not talk about Jesus anymore. Then they let the apostles go.

"The apostles were full of joy as they left the Sanhedrin. They considered it an honor to suffer shame for the name of Jesus." (Acts 5:41 NIV) Can you imagine? They considered being mistreated for Christ an honor! Do you think they stopped telling others about Jesus? No! Acts chapter five ends saying, "day after day, they kept teaching in the Temple courtyards and from house to house. They never stopped telling the good news that Jesus is the Christ." (Acts 5:42 NIV)

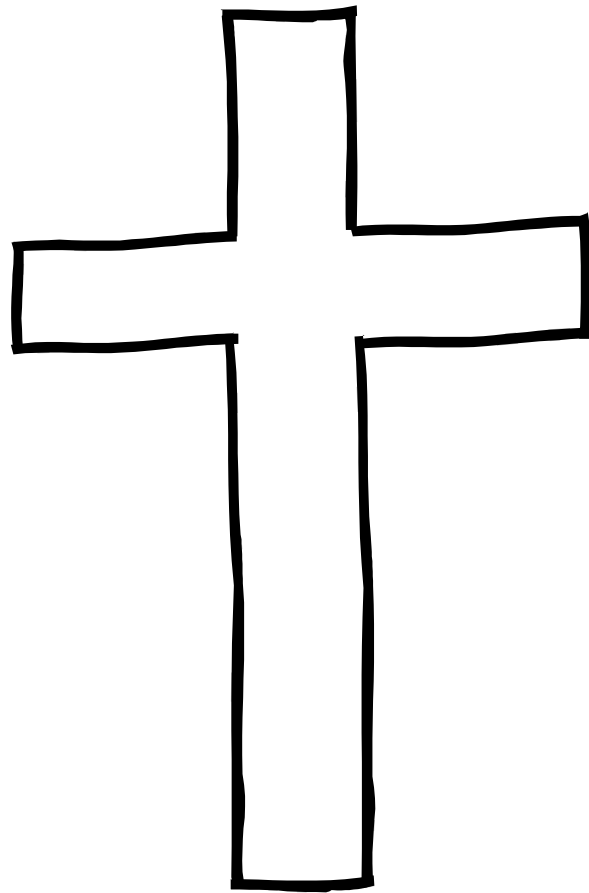
Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Print each word of the memory verse on a separate strip of paper. Put all of the strips into a paper sack. Play begins with students forming a line at the opposite end of your meeting area from the memory verse strips. One student at a time will race to the sack of memory verse strips, remove a strip without looking, and race back to where the other students are. Each student will wait until all students have a strip of paper and will then put the memory verse in order, repeating over and over again.

Sing “I will Run the Race,” “Have Faith in God,” and “The Mission.”

Gamaliel mentioned some men who had raised up a following only to have their followers scatter at their deaths. One of those was a man named Judas. People began following him when the Romans were taking a census. Take a census of the area where you have church. As you do, share who you are and where your church is. Invite each person to join you the next time you meet.

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.



Your attitude
should be the same
as that of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:5

Racing Riddles

How did the apostles react after being beaten? Did they leave shouting and complaining and angry?

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

U I F Z D P O T J E F S F E J U B O I P O P S

U P T V G G F S T I B N F

G P S U I F O B N F P G K F T V T

A C T S 5 : 4 1

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

I H E Y C O N S I D E R E D I I A N H O N O R
U I F Z D P O T J E F S F E J U B O I P O P S

T O S U F F E R S H A M E
U P T V G G F S T I B N F

F O R T H E N A M E O F J E S U S .
G P S U I F O B N F P G K F T V T

A C T S 5 : 4 1

Word Search

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

Sanhedrin

Sadducees

Pharisees

Gamaliel

apostles

beaten

leave men alone

joy

never stopped

Word Search

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