

THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST



Week Seven - Opposition & Rejoicing

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

This story is one of many showing the opposition to God's mission and His people. We are not promised an easy life following Jesus (at least not until He returns), but we are promised His Spirit is with us. Pray the kids are encouraged with the real good news that lasts even in the face of opposition.

- **Big Idea:** God's mission can not be stopped... and you can be part of it!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

- **Unstoppable**

Play a game of Red Rover

OR if you have time to watch this video ahead of time and gather the materials, do this object lesson: <https://youtu.be/pBeQrCvHA0I?t=228>

Use either of these to set up the story that man can be stopped, but God cannot be stopped!

Sing Together

Story - from Acts 5:12-42

God was doing many signs and wonders through the first followers of Jesus and they were all living together. None of the other doubters dared join them, but many men and women were coming to true belief every day. The people around them saw God at work so they would bring their sick out in hopes that when Peter came by, at least his shadow would fall on them and God would heal their sickness.

This upset the Jewish religious leaders, because people were leaving their way of teaching to follow the ways of Jesus. So, they arrested the apostles and put them in jail. But God sent a warrior from heaven to open the doors and lead them out! God's messenger said, *"Go and stand in the temple and tell the people all about this way of life."* So they did just that.

When the high priest sent for the prisoners the next morning, the officers reported, *"We found the jail securely locked with the guards in front, but no one was inside."* They were all baffled about this. Then someone said, *"Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple teaching the people."* So they went to seize them again, but this time they didn't use force because they were afraid of what the crowd would think.

They asked Jesus' followers, *"Didn't we order you not to teach of Jesus? You're filling all the people with this teaching and making us look guilty of murdering Jesus!"*

Peter and the other apostles replied, *"We must obey God over people. Our God, the same God you preach, raised up Jesus. But you had him killed. Yet, God exalted Jesus to His right hand as Ruler and Savior, to offer repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are merely witnesses of all this, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to all who obey Him to tell the truth."*

When they heard this they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But one Pharisee named Gamaliel stood up and said, *"Men of Israel, be careful what you're about to do. Other men have risen claiming to be the Savior and Messiah, but died. When they died, their followers all dispersed and their mission was forgotten. So leave these men alone. If Jesus was just a man who died, their cause will fade away. But if this is from God, you will not be able to stop them. Even worse, you will be guilty of fighting against God."*

They listened to his advice. Instead of killing them, they beat them up but let them go and ordered them to stop speaking of Jesus. The followers of Jesus went away rejoicing! They were glad to be worthy enough to suffer for the name of Jesus. They did not stop — they continued teaching in homes and in the temple about the good news of Jesus.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- How do you think people were able to be healed by Jesus' followers? How is this a picture of what Jesus will ultimately do when he returns?
- Why do you think the religious leaders were so angry about the healings and teachings of Jesus?
- Why weren't Jesus' followers discouraged by this? How could they rejoice about being beaten and arrested?
- How did God protect them and keep His mission moving forward?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You that Your plan never fails and that we can be part of Your mission. Thank You for Your Spirit filling us with Your presence and power. Help us be faithful to Jesus. Amen.

- **Craft:**

- Use the maze attached
- OR use the coloring sheet attached

BLESS Activity

For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm.

How can you take time to listen to the Spirit this week? Ask Him how He wants you to live and trust that He is with you to live it.



Follow the maze to help the apostles get from the jail to the temple, so they can preach about Jesus!



