



Acts - The Birth of the Church - Week 10 - You Are Not In Control

Acts 5: 17-42

Discussion Questions for March 29th, 2026

1. (Icebreaker) Pastor Joe, our Student Pastor, preached the sermon this week. List a few ways that Pastor Joe has blessed you or the congregation in the last couple of years, whether you have a child in Student Ministry or not. We can thank the Lord for giving us faithful, capable servants to lead our church ministries.
2. **Main Idea: You Are Not In Control.** It's easy to think you're in control when life is going according to plan. What circumstances in your life reminded you that you were NOT really in control? Often this is an unfortunate situation, but can you also think of a time when God took the control out of your hands and things turned out better than expected?
3. **Point #1: God Is In Control.** Why did the Sadducees arrest the apostles? Diagnose the emotion, and what verses earlier in chapter 5 might have contributed to this feeling.
4. **Point #2: God Has Spoken.** Pastor Joe said, "Obedience in the moment is always rooted in decisions made beforehand. You don't rise to the level of the moment, you fall to the level of your conviction." Do you see this principle at work in your life? Provide an example or two.
5. When the apostles were told by the angel to go back to the temple and continue preaching, they obeyed right away because Jesus was their Lord. Where in your life do you need to turn over lordship to Jesus? Some things may be too personal to share in small group, but be as authentic as you can. Maybe the support of your Christian brothers and sisters is exactly what you need to surrender fully to the Lord.
6. **Point #3: God Is Moving.** It's easy to see why Gamaliel was held in honor by all the people. He knew that God's activity cannot be stopped! How can you apply Gamaliel's thinking to situations in your own life? In other words, how can the sovereignty of God bring clarity or comfort into your life decisions?

7. The apostles were jailed and beaten in this chapter, and yet they ended up rejoicing. Pastor Joe challenged us to give up convenience, safety, and control in order to "take up our cross and follow Jesus." What challenges can we expect in our modern world when we fully surrender our lives to Jesus? Are you ready to pay the cost, no matter what?
8. Pray together that we will obey God rather than men. Pray that our response to challenging situations includes the gospel message, and that we rely on Jesus as our Lord.