

07 BOLDNESS TO OBEY

KEY TEXT: ACTS 5:29-42

CENTRAL truth

Once again, Peter and the apostles found themselves being opposed by the Jewish leaders. Yet the apostles peacefully resisted the leaders' command to stop proclaiming the name of Jesus. Through the apostles' words and example, we're reminded that **the Holy Spirit enables us to follow Jesus, even in difficult moments.**

key question

How did the apostles practice resistance in a way that honored Jesus?

Knowing Jesus possesses all authority and power, the apostles peacefully and confidently communicated their commitment to declaring the good news. Even when they were physically punished, they were delighted to be treated in the same way as their Master. The Lord is honored when we follow Him, even in tough moments.

keep in mind

- The presence of authority figures is very pronounced in the lives of students. At times they will wrestle with the tension between knowing when to resist earthly authority and when to honor Jesus. As you remind them to trust the Spirit and godly mentors, emphasize the peaceful behavior of the apostles. Firmness of conviction and resistance to unjust leadership doesn't mean we're rude, disrespectful, or violent.
- The wise Pharisee Gamaliel was convinced that God's plan would ultimately prevail. Painful circumstances may keep students from embracing this powerful reality. As you hear of difficult situations in the lives of the students you lead, be sure to remain prayerful and check in with them periodically.

application

Jesus sits at the right hand of God. Why should this transform the way we live?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Help students understand that the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom to know when we must resist earthly authority and the courage to do so in a way that is honoring and pleasing to God. The Lord does leave us to navigate this on our own.

FOR THE LEADER: Remind students of the community that they have as they follow Jesus. God has given us a family to walk alongside us. Equip students with the confidence and tools they need to pray for one another, support one another, and lean on one another as they navigate life and learn to honor the Lord.

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