



Study Guide
Sunday 27 June 2021
Acts 5

Read Acts 5:1-11

- 1. How did you feel and what questions did you have when you first read this section?**
- 2. Why do you think Ananias and Sapphira did what they did? What circumstances might tempt you to do something similar?**
- 3. The whole church was 'seized' by 'great fear'. What do you think they were afraid of? The words 'great fear' can mean 'terror' or it can mean 'tremendous awe'. Which one do you think is meant here?**

Read Acts 5:12-16

- 4. Is it significant that it was 'the apostles' who had spent a lot of time with Jesus, who performed the signs and wonders?**
- 5. The believers met together in the open. Many saw the group, and were very interested, but didn't want to be identified with them. Others believed in Jesus and joined the group. Which of these categories do you think you would have been in?**
- 6. Crowds gathered, not in the group meeting, but around the town, recognising that healing was happening and wanting a part of that. We are told that 'all' were healed, but clearly not everyone became believers. Why do you think that was?**

Read Acts 5:17-41. As you read, look out for the way in which different groups felt and reacted.

Note that the main party in power at the time were Sadducees, who did not believe in the possibility of resurrection or of life after death.

- 7. The apostles were arrested and imprisoned, but an 'angel of the Lord' freed them to 'tell the people all about this new life'. What do you understand this to mean?**
- 8. On seeing the apostles at work, the Sadducees had been filled, not with fear, but with 'jealousy'. Talk about the reasons for and the significance of this.**
- 9. The apostles were teaching, imprisoned, freed, teaching, recaptured, challenged, refusing to submit, threatened with death, rescued by Gamaliel, flogged anyway, freed, having been told not to speak of Jesus, rejoicing 'because they had been found worthy of suffering' ... "for the name", and continuing to preach everywhere and without stopping! In today's world, and in relation to the Church who would you see as examples of the governing Sadducees, and who as a respected and honoured Gamaliel, who was apparently not a believer in Jesus, but did seek truth.**
- 10. What do you think this passage has to say to today's believers about attitudes to persecution and about the challenge to 'tell the people all about this new life'.**