

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: JULY 28, 2026

We are blessed to have the book of Acts. We are blessed to have this book in the Bible. Acts is our look at the beginnings of the New Testament church. There are similarities with this church and ERCC. The similarities in churches planted in countries where Christianity is new and growing seem to have even more similarities with the Acts church.

REVIEW:

At our July 14th meeting we discussed actions of the apostles, Ananias, Sapphira, and the Holy Spirit:

- Prompted by Barnabas' generosity, Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property to give to the apostles. However, unlike Barnabas, they held back some of the proceeds before they laid the money at the apostles' feet. In doing so they lied to the Holy Spirit.
- When Peter told Ananias that he lied not to man but to God, Ananias died.
- Sapphira, was unaware her husband died when Peter asked her about the land sale. When Peter confronts her and says, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?". Still sticking to her deceitful plan, she drops dead.
- Great fear came upon the whole church and all who heard of these things. They understood not to grieve the Holy Spirit with lies or testing. These are good things to remember in our relationship with the Holy Spirit, whom Peter revealed is God.
- If we lie to or test God we take glory from God. It is important we always give God ALL the glory.

ACTS 5:17 - 26

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³ "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵ And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

For the July 28th discussion, please read Acts 5:17 – 26 and be ready to discuss the following questions.

QUESTIONS:

The prayers in Acts 4:29 – 30 are answered in Acts 4:31 and Acts 5:12 – 16. Still there were some who were afraid to join the apostles. But multitudes of men and women were added to the Lord. This caught the attention of the religious leaders.

1. In Acts 5:17 – 18 the high priest and the party of the Sadducees arrested the apostles and put them in prison.

- Were only Peter and John arrested?

- In Acts 4:1-2, Peter and John were arrested. What was the reason given for the arrest in Acts 5:17? Was this the same reason as the first time Peter and John were arrested?

2. The apostles were released from prison.

- How and who released them from prison?

- If I was being persecuted and was miraculously released from prison, I would probably hide for a while. The apostles did not hide... what did they do? Did they have direction to do what they did?

3. In Acts 5:21b, the high priest called the council together and told the guards to bring the prisoners to them.

- When the officers went to get the apostles from prison, what did they find and what did they tell the council?

- This perplexed the captain of the temple and chief priests. Someone came told them where the apostles were. Then, the captain and officers went and brought the apostles, but not by force. Why did they not use force?

4. The apostles knew God was with them. God was working miracles...one being their release from prison. Their spirits were high...maybe some of them were thinking about what God said in Isaiah 41:10, “fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

- God is with us today too! Can we interpret Isaiah 41:10 to mean no harm will ever come to us?