

**Discussion Questions:
Empowered for Jesus' Mission
Persecution and Praise (Acts 5:12-42)**

Then [the apostles] left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

1. In **Acts 4:23-31**, how did the believers respond to the initial outbreak of persecution? What did they pray for, and how do you see their prayers answered in **Acts 5:12-42**?
2. What forms of persecution can a Christian expect in modern-day America? In light of this passage, what should be our response when persecution comes?
3. What did God command the apostles to do in **verse 20**? What did obedience to his command ultimately result in for them (**v.40**)? What commands of God are you reluctant to obey because of the hardships they might invite? Be specific.
4. Read Gamaliel's advice (**vv.33-39**). What are some of the implications of the fact that the mission given to us to spread the gospel is unstoppable? If your community group were to embrace this truth whole-heartedly, how might your group change?
5. One of the big lies of our enemy is that if we go "all in" for Christ, we'll be missing out on something. Are there things in your life that prevent you from going all in? In what areas of your life are you tempted to think your ways are better than God's?
6. Read **verse 41**. Why can Christians rejoice in persecution? (See also **1 Peter 4:14; John 15:18-19; James 1:2-4**)
7. In **verse 42**, what two locations does it say the apostles taught and preached in? What are the modern equivalents of these? Why are both necessary for the Christian life?
8. Pray as a group