

THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

Acts 5:27-32

November 12, 2023

GOD AND THE GOSPEL

1

This questioning before the high priest and the Sanhedrin should remind us not only of the previous event concerning Peter and John (Acts 4:1-22), but also Jesus' trial before his crucifixion (Luke 22: 68-71). What are the similarities between these council meetings?

2

The council has two charges against the apostles: "you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us" (v. 28). What is at stake for these Jewish leaders? What do they fear from the apostles?

3

Are there indications that the Jewish rulers feel guilt over Jesus's death? Have you seen guilt lead to aggression, as in this case?

4

The leaders resist having "this man's blood upon us," but believers recognize that, in another sense, we must all have his blood upon us to cover our sins. What is the relationship between guilt and atonement?

5

The apostles defend their obedience to God, rather than to man. Is it always easy to know when an act of civil disobedience is in line with God's will? How can Christians test their thinking on this matter?

6

The apostles accuse the Jewish leaders of hanging Jesus on a “tree,” likely a reference to Deuteronomy 21:22-23. Why might they have used this term here, instead of cross?

7

Jesus is called “Leader” and “Savior” in this passage. What qualities do these two titles highlight?

8

How do the apostles articulate the role of the Holy Spirit in verse 32?

