

Part 13 | Joyful in Trouble

Acts 5:12-42

When our **TESTIMONY** brings trouble, (v. 12-18)

for the **right reasons** 1 Peter 3:17

don't seek it, but expect it Romans 12:18; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-19

we can **BOLDLY** and **JOYFULLY** proclaim Jesus (v. 19-42)

with your mouth

with your life

because God is **WITH US**. (Matthew 28:18-20)

his mission Matthew 28:19-20

his promise Matthew 28:20b; Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 43:2; Acts 18:9-10



Text us at **833-271-8805**.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.

Politics & Religion

MAIN PLAYERS IN THE N.T.

In the centuries leading up to Jesus's birth, the influence of Greece permeated the cultures of the Ancient Near East (thanks to the conquests of Alexander the Great), including Israel. This cultural influence of ancient Greece is referred to as Hellenism.

In Israel, there were varied responses to the arrival of Hellenism and its influence on Israel's political and social map. This resulted in factions of religious and political groups that appear throughout the New Testament. **Here's four of the most prominent:**

1. The Sadducees

The Sadducees basically accept that Hellenism is present and welcome some of the aspects Graeco-Roman culture. They emerge as the people who are trying to make the best of a bad situation by **simply assimilating to it**. They were a small but wealthy and influential group who believed the Pentateuch alone (first five books of the Old Testament) was God's Word. Because they could find no evidence of resurrection in those writings, they famously refused to believe in resurrection of the dead.

2. The Pharisees

The Pharisees emerged during the period of Antiochus Epiphanes by **engaging culture**. They accept some things, but also push back to limit the amount of influence coming from Hellenistic Culture. Over time this resulted in a ton of rules that—while well-intentioned—were over-and-above what God actually prescribed in his Word. Obeying their rules eventually became more important to them than loving God and others.

3. The Essenes/Qumran Community

This group felt so pressured and overwhelmed by the influx of the culture that **they withdrew from it**. Some even headed out into the desert (Qumran) where they established their own community and isolated themselves in a world where the influence of a pagan culture was seemingly minimized.

4. The Zealots

This crew **fought against the culture** and wanted to eliminate the presence of Gentiles in the Jewish world. You might say they wanted to "Make Israel Great Again", so to speak. Their passionate nationalism eventually lead to a war with Rome and the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem around 70 AD.

Jesus the Reconciler

Amazingly, Jesus **reconciled—even appointed as disciples—people from all of these groups!** He called them (and us) into a Kingdom that supersedes culture, politics, and religion. Following and obeying Jesus brings true peace, but always invites opposition from those who love their worldview and way of life more than his grace.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Each week we'll spend part of our time getting to know more about one another.

Share with the Group:

We have all experienced the angst of dealing with a difficult boss, teacher or public official at some point in our lives. What's your first impulse when you encounter an unreasonable authority figure or opposition in general (circle any that apply)?

- run
- freeze
- problem solve
- stubbornness
- fight
- argue
- get defensive
- be passive aggressive
- panic
- listen
- shut down
- other

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. We heard this weekend that as followers of Jesus we can expect persecution and opposition due to our faith, but we would be foolish to seek it out. So as we proclaim Christ and live out our faith, we need to be careful to do so in a way that is respectful and loving of others, not obnoxious & condescending. How could the following verses help shape the way we communicate with those we disagree with? Or maybe better said, with those who disagree with us? (Including those we live and work closely with?)

- **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
- **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
- **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible “home”, we challenge you to pursue **three things**:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 5:27-32 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

²⁷ And when they had **brought** them, they set them before the **council**. And the **high priest questioned** them, ²⁸ **saying**, “We **strictly charged** you not to **teach** in this **name**, yet **here** you have **filled Jerusalem** with your **teaching**, and you **intend** to **bring** this **man's blood** upon us.” ²⁹ But **Peter** and the **apostles answered**, “We must **obey** God **rather** than men. ³⁰ The God of our **fathers raised** **Jesus**, whom you **killed** by **hanging** him on a **tree**. ³¹ God **exalted** him at his **right hand** as **Leader** and **Savior**, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who **obey** him.”

P E T E R I N X W Q P O O D
R I G H T T H C O U N C I L
I U P A T F A T H E R S N E
E M C N S U N T A S A S T A
S A C D A G G E P T T T E D
T N Y H V A I A O I H R N E
R ' G E I K N C S O E I D R
E S B R O U G H T N R C D A
E F J E R U S A L E M T A I
P I A N S W E R E D T L D S
N L S A Y I N G S L M Y L E
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M E X A L T E D J E S U S A
E D M G O P B R I N G K E X
H I G H M T F T ' O B E Y D

life groups Study Guide (continued)

what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **ROMANS 12:10-21 (ESV)**

• **The key question we need to ask is, “What are we known for as followers of Jesus?”** If you asked a friend or family member the following questions based on the passage above, what do you think they might say?

- What two things do I reflect the most?
- What one or two things could I use some work on?

2. Daniel is a great example of someone who lived his life in such a way that people noticed a difference in him. He was a foreigner in a land where the society, government and ruler were completely opposed to God. As you read part of Daniel's story in **Daniel 6:1-5**, what stands out to you about the way he lived his life in this hostile environment?

- What would be most challenging to you if you found yourself in a situation similar to Daniel's?
- Can you think of what it would look like for a person to have influence like Daniel in a workplace, school or home that is closed off to God and his plan?
- Are there any significant character-building lessons you've learned in the past when having to deal with a difficult authority figure or when facing opposition?

Taking It Home

1. Is there anything you need to change regarding the way you talk about, or respond to, people that you disagree with?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women and pray for one another.**

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

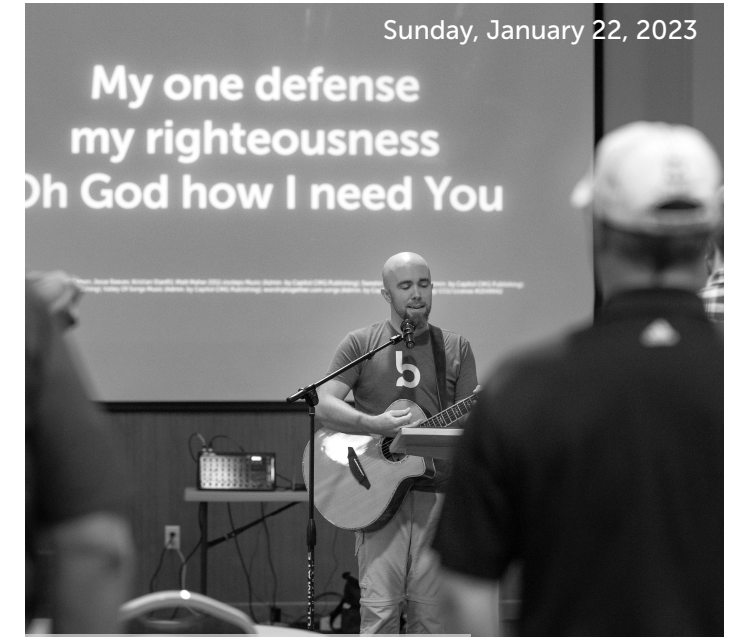
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ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, January 22, 2023

My one defense
my righteousness
Oh God how I need You



PART 13

Joyful in
Trouble

ACTS 5:12-42



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access today's bulletin using the same QR or link.

