ACTS

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- Have you "rejoiced" lately? What about?
- Have you ever gotten blowback for being a Christian?
- Discipleship check-in (at the bottom of this guide).

INTRODUCTION

The book of Acts takes place after Jesus has conquered death and risen from the grave. It begins with Jesus giving his disciples the power they need to live out his mission in the world. Acts is the story of how Jesus, the Spirit, and the disciples start the church. Today, we see with Christ's disciples that *God honors those who are dishonored for him*.

READ & DISCUSS

READ: Acts 5:12-42

DISCUSS:

- Read 5:41; what's odd about this verse? How do you make sense of it?
- Why does it matter that, in verse 30, Peter says Jesus was hung on a tree? (Hint: Read Deuteronomy 21:22-23!)
- What parallels do you see between how Jesus was treated and how the disciples are treated here?

REFLECT & APPLY

DISCUSS:

- How did Jesus deserve to be treated? How did people treat him? How did God treat him?
- How is it possible to rejoice the way the disciples did?
- What will be our reward for honoring Christ?

PRAY

Ask God to fill you with the confidence that if we suffer with Christ we will also be exalted with him! Ask that His Spirit be poured out on you and on us so that we can joyfully honor Christ with our lives.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?