PLANTED MINISTRIES
DISCOVER | GROW | SERVE

GROW · SESSION 3 OF 4

Holy Fire

Called Out & Gathered In — a study of Acts 5

The first church was holy, bold, and unstoppable. Not because its people were perfect, but because they **took God seriously**. In Acts 5, God is feared inside the church, His power is seen in the streets, and His people **obey Him even when it costs them**.

OPEN Think of something you once took lightly that you now take very seriously. What changed your mind?

READ Acts 4:32–37 · Acts 5:1–42

KEY VERSE "We ought to obey God rather than men." (5:29)

ACTS 5 IN FOUR MOVEMENTS

5:1–11
Holiness inside
Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost. The sin was the lie, not the amount (5:4).

5:12–16
Power among the people
Signs, "one accord," and healing in the streets. Multitudes were added.

5:17–32
Pressure from outside
Jailed, freed by an angel, and back preaching at daybreak.

5:33–42
Joy unstoppable
Beaten, yet rejoicing, and they "ceased not" to preach Jesus daily.

THE ACTS 5 CHURCH	WHAT WE OFTEN SEE TODAY	THE QUESTION FOR ME
Treated sin as serious (5:3–5)	Sin excused, joked about, or hidden	*Do I take sin as seriously as God does?*
Honesty over image (5:4)	Faith performed for others	*Where am I performing instead of being honest?*
Obeyed God rather than men (5:29)	Silence to keep the peace	*Where am I keeping quiet to stay comfortable?*
Preached Jesus daily (5:42)	Faith as a once-a-week event	*Is Jesus part of the daily talk in my home?*

Discover

1. Peter says Ananias was free to keep the money (5:4). Why do you think he lied instead of simply giving less?
2. "Great fear came upon all the church" (5:11). What is the difference between being afraid of God and having reverence for Him?
3. The angel freed the apostles and sent them straight back to preach (5:20). What does that teach about why God rescues us?

Grow

1. Why do churches often want the power of 5:12–16 without the holiness of 5:1–11? Is any of that in me?
2. Where in Columbus is it costly to "obey God rather than men"?
3. Finish this: "I've been more concerned with how I look to _____ than with being honest before God about _____."

MEMORY VERSE

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."
Acts 5:42 (KJV)

PRAY Ask God for an honest heart and holy reverence. Ask Him for courage to obey Him rather than men, and for joy when it costs.

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