

**HomeWord**  
For Parents

**G**od added about 3,000 souls to the church after Peter's sermon at Pentecost (Acts 2:41). As the church began to grow, so did the opposition to the truth about Jesus. When Peter and John were given the power to heal a lame man at the Temple in the name of Jesus, the people were amazed. Peter declared that it was by faith in the name of Jesus Christ that the lame man had been healed (Acts 3:15–16).

It wasn't long before Peter and John were arrested—but not before 5,000 more believers were added to the church (Acts 4:1–4). A trial followed their arrest as the rulers, elders, scribes, Annas, the high priest, Caiaphas, and others asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?" (Acts 4:5–7). Peter, filled with the wisdom and knowledge of the Holy Spirit, again proclaimed that it was by the name of Jesus Christ, whom they had crucified and God had raised from the dead, that the man had been healed. Peter boldly proclaimed that salvation could be found in NO other name given to men under heaven (Acts 4:8–12). The Jewish council threatened the apostles and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus! However, Peter and John would not back down from speaking the things they had seen and heard (Acts 4:20).

The apostles were released and went back to their friends. They rejoiced at God's faithfulness and prayed that the Lord would grant them boldness to speak His Word and continue to give them the power to do signs and wonders in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:23–30).

The persecution of the church and the apostles would only continue to grow worse. But in spite of beatings and imprisonment, the apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:40–41). And the church continued to grow.

As Christians, we, too, should boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it was through its truth that we were saved and through its power that others will be saved to eternal life.

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

**OutWord** For Family Discussion

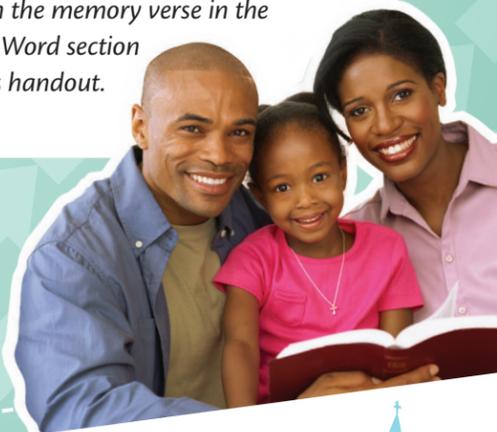
Suppose you heard someone say he thinks a battle is raging today between Christians and the people who want to shut them up. **What could you say?**

*It sure seems that way sometimes! But it isn't a battle between people as much as it is a spiritual battle that has been going on since sin entered the world. Satan doesn't like it when God's people declare the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He will do everything he can to stop people from believing it. He doesn't want the church to grow and people to hear about salvation and the forgiveness of sin. So, a spiritual war rages. The apostles were persecuted for proclaiming the name of Jesus. And the same thing is happening to Christians around the world today. It's because the devil uses people and events to try to stop others from knowing about the truth of the gospel. But take heart. God is all-powerful and sovereign. His plan will be fulfilled, and no evil will be able to stand against Him or those He has called to proclaim the gospel!*

**inWord**  
For Family Study

"You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word" (Psalm 119:114). Where does confidence in God's protection and hope in His Word come from? Teach your children where real hope lies—read and memorize Scripture together.

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



# The Apostles Are Persecuted

**KEY** THEME

- God uses people to accomplish His plans.

**KEY** PASSAGES

- Acts 4:1–4, 4:7–10, 4:16–20, 4:23–24, 5:40–42

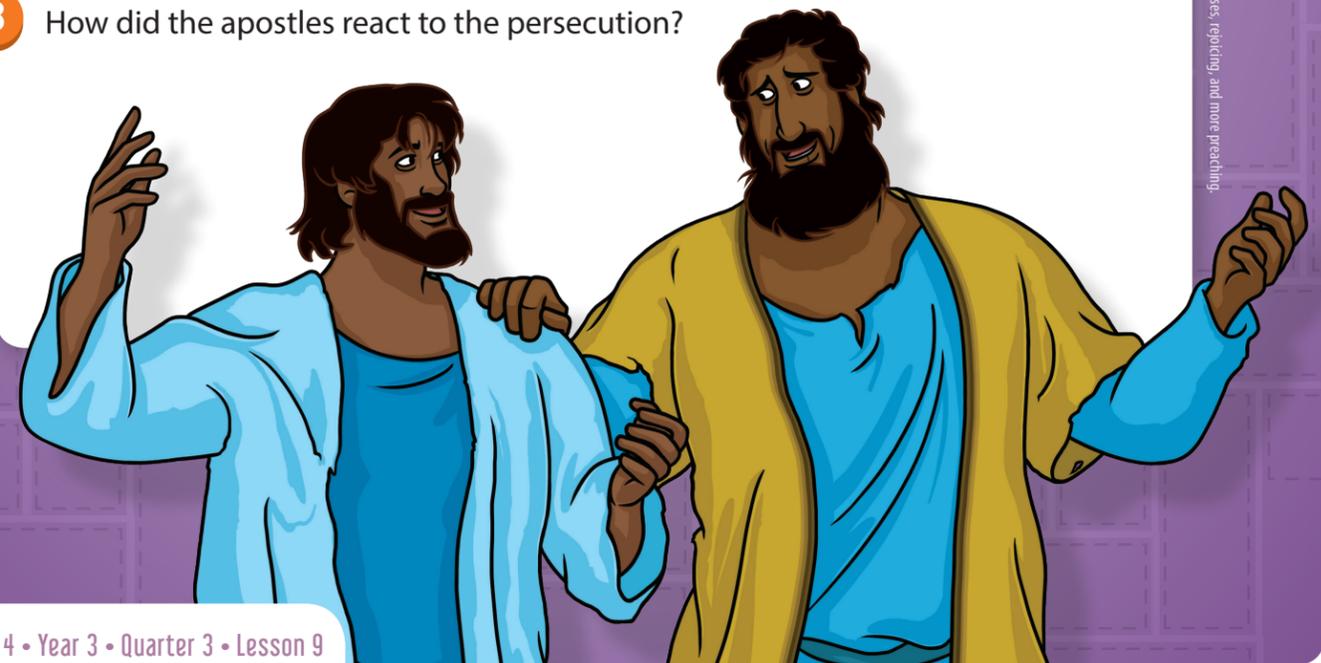


What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- The apostles were persecuted because they were preaching in the name of Jesus.
- The apostles responded to the persecution by praying and glorifying God in boldness. They rejoiced to be counted worthy to suffer for Christ and continued preaching.

Answer these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 The \_\_\_\_\_ gave the apostles power to preach the gospel boldly.
- 2 Who threatened the apostles, arrested them, and had them beaten for preaching in the name of Jesus?
- 3 How did the apostles react to the persecution?



1) Holy Spirit; 2) The Jewish leaders; 3) With prayer, praise, rejoicing, and more preaching.

# Read the Word

**Monday** {2 Timothy 3:12}  
Who will suffer persecution?

**Tuesday** {Acts 12:1-2}  
What severe persecution did James experience?

**Wednesday** {Acts 13:50}  
What happened to Paul and Barnabas when they preached the gospel in Antioch?

**Thursday** {Acts 14:19}  
What happened to the Apostle Paul because he was preaching the gospel?

**Friday** {2 Corinthians 11:23-26}  
What other kinds of persecution did the Apostle Paul suffer as a minister of Christ?

**Saturday** {Romans 1:16}  
What should we think about the gospel of Christ? (Your Memory Verse)

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

## Learn the Word

Write the letter that comes before each letter in the box below it.



For I am 

o	p	u

 ashamed of the

h	p	t	o	f	m

 of Christ, for it is the

q	p	x	f	s

 of 

h	p	e

 to salvation for

everyone who 

c	f	m	j	f	w	f	t

, for the

K	f	x

 first and also for the 

H	s	f	f	l

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Romans 1:16

## PERSECUTED FOR PROCLAIMING TRUTH

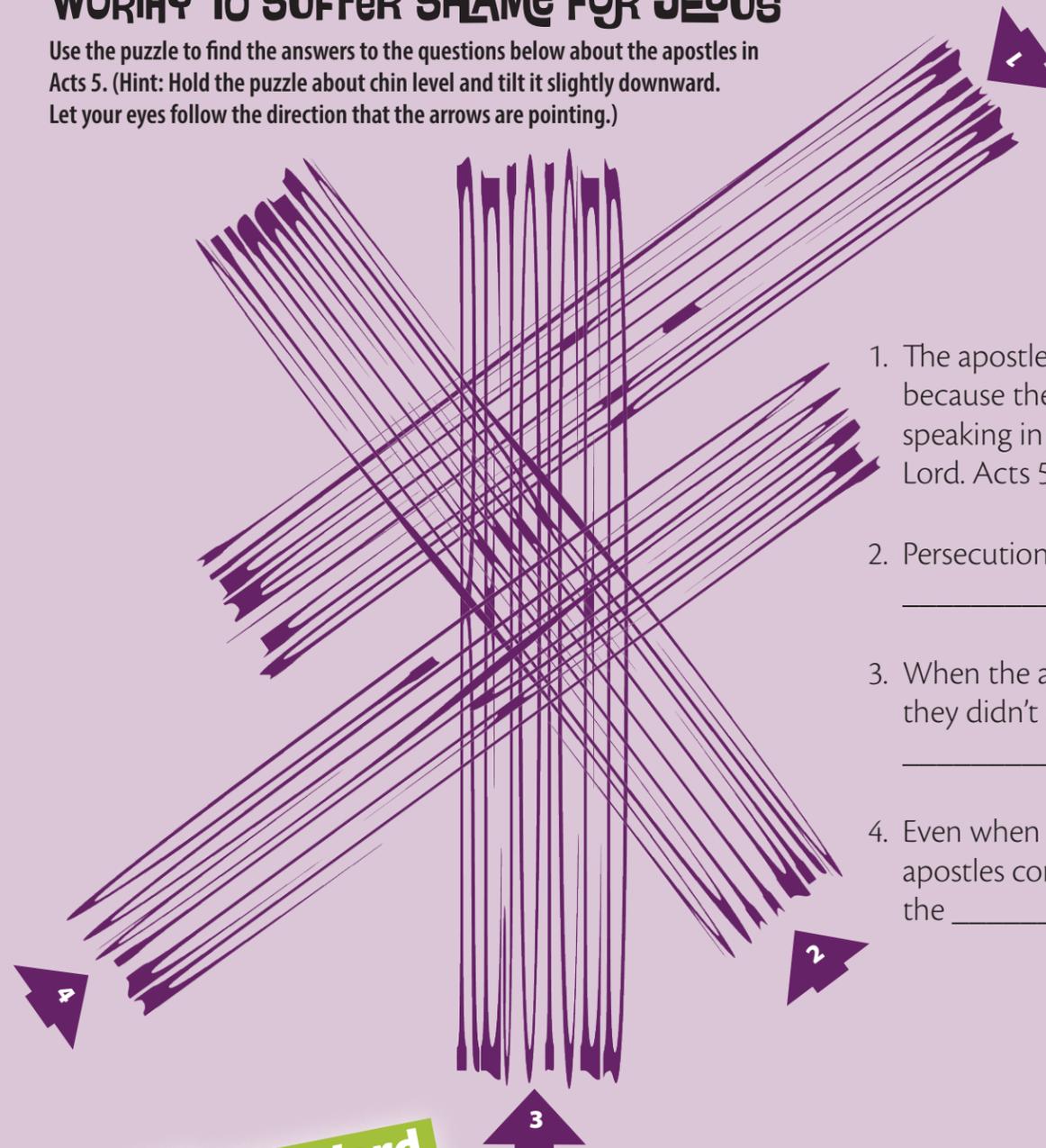
Complete these sentences by filling in the blanks. Unscramble the words below. Need help? Use the word bank or look the verses up in your Bible!

- When eePtr and nojh were preaching about Jesus at the Temple, many who heard believed. Acts 4:4.
- They received power from the Holy Spirit to aehl a man in the Temple. Acts 4:8.
- They were arrested by Jewish leaders who didn't want them teaching in the name of sseuj. Acts 4:3.
- In the morning they were commanded not to speak or teach in Jesus's mnae. Acts 4:18.
- But Peter and John said they would obey odG and continue to speak about what Jesus had said and done. Acts 4:19-20.
- The religious leaders let them go after iaegntb them. Acts 5:40.
- More and more people believed. The church was ggorwni. Acts 4:4.

**Word Bank:** Growing, Name, Peter, Beating, John, Jesus, God, Heal

## WORTHY TO SUFFER SHAME FOR JESUS

Use the puzzle to find the answers to the questions below about the apostles in Acts 5. (Hint: Hold the puzzle about chin level and tilt it slightly downward. Let your eyes follow the direction that the arrows are pointing.)



- The apostles were \_\_\_\_\_ because they wouldn't stop speaking in the name of the Lord. Acts 5:40.
- Persecution is when someone \_\_\_\_\_ for his faith.
- When the apostles suffered, they didn't complain. They \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 5:41.
- Even when persecuted, the apostles continued to preach the \_\_\_\_\_.

## LIVE the Word

Suppose you hear a friend say she is worried that she won't be brave enough to tell people about Jesus if she knew she'd be persecuted. **What could you say?**

*Any kind of persecution is hard to face! And it seems like the apostles might have been exceptionally brave. But they were ordinary men filled with boldness and courage because the Holy Spirit lived in them. The Holy Spirit is our helper. And He will help us when we need courage to defend Jesus. It is better not to worry about what might happen someday. Instead, practice being bold now. Share the gospel with your friends, neighbors, and family. And when you are persecuted because of Jesus, pray for more courage and help from the Holy Spirit. He will give it just when you need it!*

**SNEAK PEEK**  
How did the gospel reach Samaria and Ethiopia? Come next week to find out.

ANSWERS: 1) Peter, John, 2) Heal, 3) Jesus, 4) Name, 5) God, 6) Beating, 7) Growing, 8) GOSPEL, 9) Boldness, 10) Holy Spirit, 11) Persecuted, 12) Preach, 13) Boldly, 14) Persecution, 15) Didn't complain, 16) Didn't stop speaking, 17) In the name of the Lord, 18) Worthy to suffer shame for Jesus.