

Acts 5:17-42 /// Week of May 14

Today's big idea: Suffering can lead to rejoicing.

Examples for the first question include Chinese food on a tortilla, wearing shorts on a cold day, listening to rock music while going to sleep, etc.

- Suffering and rejoicing don't seem to go together. What are two things that you like together that others might think is strange?
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together.
- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.

Head

This is a longer story. Be selective in the parts of the story you tell. Remember, the focus is on suffering. Make sure to focus on that and the other details can get picked up when you read the text together.

- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of the apostles suffering.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Acts 5:17-42 in the Bible.
- What do we know about the apostles that would have led them to respond throughout this story the way they did? **They were with Jesus. They saw Jesus after the resurrection. They saw how he suffered on his way to the cross.**
- In this story was going to jail and being flogged good or bad? Why?

Heart

This part could get heavy. Be sure to leave a pause after each person shares just in case they have more to say. Also, protect the group members from each other by ensure they Don't Fix and Don't Rescue.

- The suffering of the apostles was physical. How have you experienced suffering and how did you respond to it?
- The response of the apostles seems supernatural. Could you envision yourself responding the way the apostles did? Why or why not?

Hands

- What are things that have helped you or other you know to endure suffering?
- What are some things that you could do now that might also help you navigate suffering in your life?
- Pray for each other and those you know who may be suffering in one way or another.

DON'T FORGET TO START PLANNING YOUR CELEBRATION WEEK!!! The last week of May your group should plan to do something fun and spend the time together celebrating all that God has done in and through everyone in the group. Be sure to include some kind of food. Keep it casual and have fun celebrating!



Community Group Covenants - hfcog.org

Community Group Member Covenant

- I will make attendance a priority in my schedule and involvement a priority in my participation.
- I will build trust by holding in confidence those things shared in the Community Group.
- I will engage with a disciple maker—someone that will help me grow as a disciple of Jesus and teach me how to be a disciple maker as well.

Community Group Apprentice Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple someone in the Community Group beyond group meetings focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Leader each week and meet monthly beyond group meetings.

Community Group Leader Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple someone in or out of the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple an apprentice focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, leadership skills they are developing in the group meeting and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Coach each week and meet monthly.

Community Group Coach Covenant

- I will pray for my assigned Community Group Leaders daily.
- I will relationally disciple someone.
- I will call my assigned Community Group Leaders each week focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, process group time and their progress with their apprentice.
- I will meet with my assigned Community Group Leaders each month.
- I will talk with my Community Group Pastor every other week and meet together each month.