



Rooted

South Sub Church

September 28, 2025

Courage in Christ: Embracing ‘Good Trouble’

Acts 5:12-20 (NLT)

The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon’s Colonnade. ¹³But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. ¹⁴Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. ¹⁵As a result of the apostles’ work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter’s shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. ¹⁶Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed. ¹⁷The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, ²⁰“Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!”

Sermon Summary:

Rooted is a 10-week journey through the life of the Apostle Peter, following his story as he learns to walk with Jesus. Each week, we’ll step into a defining moment of Peter’s life—his failures, his victories, his doubts, and his bold faith—and discover how God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. *Rooted* will help you grow deeper in faith, find strength in trials, and embrace the life God has called you to live. Whether you’re brand new to faith or have been walking with Christ for years, this series will ground you in truth and inspire you to live boldly for Jesus.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What’s one thing you love most about this time of year—food, activity, or tradition?
2. Share a small surprise or blessing you experienced this past week.
3. Share about a time when you had to stand up for something you believed was right, even when it wasn’t popular.
4. What’s a small challenge you faced recently that turned out to strengthen your faith?
5. Who in your life has inspired you to live out your faith with boldness, and why?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. Who became jealous of the apostles and arrested them?
2. Where were the apostles placed after their arrest?

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3. What did the angel of the Lord do during the night?
4. After being freed, where did the angel instruct the apostles to go, and what were they told to do there?
5. When the temple guards arrived the next morning, what surprising discovery did they make about the jail?
6. How did the captain and temple guards bring the apostles back without using force?
7. What specific command did the high priest remind the apostles they had disobeyed?
8. In his defense, what key statement did Peter and the apostles make about obeying God versus human authority?
9. Who among the council members advised caution, mentioning Theudas and Judas of Galilee as examples?
10. After the apostles were flogged and released, what was their reaction, and what did they continue to do every day?

Interpretive Questions:

1. How does Peter's statement, "*We must obey God rather than any human authority,*" challenge our own response to governmental or social pressure today?
2. Why might the apostles rejoice after suffering a public flogging, and what does that teach us about the relationship between suffering and joy in Christian discipleship?
3. What role does the Holy Spirit play in giving the apostles courage and clarity, and how might that same Spirit empower believers today?
4. How does this passage shape our understanding of persecution as a normal part of following Jesus?
5. In what ways does the continued public preaching of the apostles illustrate the power and necessity of proclaiming the gospel, even when facing opposition?

Application Questions:

1. When have you felt pressure to stay silent about your faith? How might Peter's example encourage you to speak boldly for Christ?
2. What "human authorities" (workplace rules, cultural norms, peer expectations) sometimes compete with your obedience to God, and how do you navigate that tension?
3. How do you typically respond to hardship or opposition for your beliefs—fear, anger, or joy? What would it look like to rejoice as the apostles did?
4. What daily habits (prayer, Scripture, community) help you stay filled with the Holy Spirit's courage?