

Acts 5:12-42
Community Group Questions

1. What are some of the things happening in our world or culture at large that tempt you to think that we are fighting a losing battle? What are some of the things that cause you to have a sense of optimism about the church?
2. Read the following verses: Acts 2:41,47; 4:4; 5:14. How would you describe the growth of the early church? Beyond numerical growth, what are some other indicators that the church was growing in a healthy direction? (see Acts 4:32; 5:11,16)
3. The response to the Apostle's preaching can be seen on a continuum in this passage. There seem to be 4 distinct responses:
 - a. Outright opposition (vv.17-18,33)
 - b. A wait and see approach (vv.34-39)
 - c. Hesitancy and respect (v.13)
 - d. Joyful acceptance (v.14)Why do you think it is important to keep this in mind when trying to share the gospel with others?
4. What does faithfulness look like in the face of opposition? Do you think we tend to focus too much on results and not enough on obedience?
5. How does focusing on Jesus' promises about the church (Matthew 16:18) and God's sovereignty (think Gamaliel) boost your confidence with regard to the present and future state of the church?
6. Spend some time praying specifically for the church at large and for the ministry of Crossridge.