

October 26

Acts 5:1-11

This passage tells the story of Ananias and Sapphira.

Question to Consider:

This is a disturbing story because the outcome (their deaths) doesn't seem to fit the crime, so to speak. Why do you think the story ended this way? What lesson is there for us in this story?

Prayer:

Father God, this is a disturbing story and yet there is also an important lesson – we are hurt when we hold back from you. Help me to grow as a person who does *not* hold back, but instead gives you my all. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

October 27

Acts 5:12-16

In these verses, we read about the growing reputation the apostles among the people.

Question to Consider:

Try to put yourself among the people in those days. How do you think you would have reacted to what the apostles were doing and the reputation they were building?

Prayer:

Gracious God, the apostles did some amazing things and the reactions were varied – some believed, some were skeptical, and some wanted to know more. When I see and hear about things that seem difficult to believe, I pray that you will help me discern the truth. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

October 28

Acts 5:17-26

This is the first part of a passage in which we read about the beginning of persecution of the apostles.

Question to Consider:

The apostles knew that they were facing increasing threats because of their faith, but they continued anyway. How do you think you might react if you faced such a threat?

Prayer:

Almighty God, the day may come when I am threatened because of my faith, or when I must stand up and defend my faith. Please fill me with your Spirit so that I boldly, yet humbly, stand with you. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

October 29

Acts 5:27-42

This is the second part of a passage in which we read about the beginning of persecution against the apostles.

Question to Consider:

Gamaliel's argument was that if something is of God it will ultimately succeed. Do you agree with his position? How might your answer impact the choices you make on a daily basis?

Prayer:

Loving God, I pray that the choices I make are always the choices you would have me make because if they are, I know that there will be success – success for *you*. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

October 30

Acts 6:1-7

In these verses, we read that the apostles began to share the workload, a choice made necessary by the growth of the young church.

Question to Consider:

As Christ followers, we are all called to serve and to share in the work of ministry. How might you serve the cause of Christ where you live?

Prayer:

Merciful God, you created me and gave me gifts and talents. Help me to know what those gifts are and how I might use them in your service. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

October 31

Acts 6:8-15

This passage tells of the arrest of a follower of Jesus named Stephen.

Question to Consider:

If Stephen was doing "great wonders and miraculous signs" among the people, why do you suppose there was such opposition to him?

Prayer:

Gracious God, in a culture that is increasingly secular, there may be a time when I am challenged because of my faith. Please help me to stand firm with you and to stand up with others who stand up for their faith. I pray in the name of my Savior, Jesus. Amen.