

July 12, 2026 – Small Group Questions

Standing in the Name

Acts 5:17-34, 40-42

This Sunday we continued a sermon series entitled “*Empowered to Bear Witness to Jesus’ Kingdom.*” This series focuses on how the risen and ascended Jesus empowers his disciples for mission through the gift of the outpoured Holy Spirit.

Small Group Questions

1. **Read the whole passage through together (Acts 5:17-43, 40-42). What stands out to you most about the different responses of the characters to the name of Jesus?**
2. **In response to the council’s warning not to speak in the name of Jesus, the apostles say, “We must obey God rather than men” (v.29). What do you think gave them the courage to say this?**
3. **Verse 41 says they rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour “for the Name.” Why do you think they responded with joy instead of discouragement after being beaten?**
4. **While many Christians do face persecution and imprisonment in the world, our context in Toronto is a little different. Most of us won’t face imprisonment for our faith, and yet pressure to compromise are ever-present. What pressures do we face today that tempt us to stay silent or compromise when it comes to bearing witness to Jesus? Where do you most feel pressure to make Jesus less visible in your life?**
5. **What would it practically look like for you to stand in the name of Jesus this week?**

Closing Prayer

Close in a time of prayer that focuses on an ancient prayer called the *epiclesis*: “Come Holy Spirit”.

This prayer does not suggest that the Holy Spirit is not already present but rather opens us to the awareness of His presence and welcomes Him to come in a fresh way into our lives, the church, and our world.

You might pray specifically for items shared in question #5. You might also ask the Spirit to give wisdom to know what Jesus is calling you to do and the courage to do it.