

## ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** ***International Bible Lessons***

**Acts 5:27-42**

**Sunday September 20, 2015**  
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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

### **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

**1. What do you think might have been the primary reason for the apostles’ arrest?**

The apostles were accusing the religious authorities of murdering Jesus the Messiah and disobeying their orders.

**2. When ordered to do so, when should a Christian disobey God?**

Never!

### **3. Who does God give the Holy Spirit to? Did the members of the Sanhedrin have the Holy Spirit within them?**

See Acts 2:37-39 and Acts 5:32.

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call’” (Acts 2:37-39).

“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him” (Acts 5:32).

### **4. As a respected teacher of the law, why do you think Gamaliel did not use the law of God in his presentation to the Council?**

There was no law of God or Scripture that could be used as a reason for persecuting or punishing the apostles. He only had some flawed human historical examples that God used to prevent the murder of the apostles. Gamaliel was not an inspired Christian filled with the Holy Spirit who could teach the truth of the gospel, but the Holy Spirit could still use his uninspired human reasoning to help the apostles.

**5. Compare Acts 5:41-42 and Matthew 5:10-12.  
How do you think Jesus' teaching helped the  
apostles?**

Jesus foretold them that they would be persecuted if they followed Him. They could remember Jesus' teaching and pray to Him as they were beaten. Their persecution indicated they were obeying Him as He intended. They knew that they were similar to the true prophets of God, who were also persecuted. They rejoiced that they could serve Jesus in both good and painful circumstances.

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