

## 8.2.2010 – Little Pillars Family Guide



### Scripture Passage:

Acts 6:1-7

### Memory Verse for the Week:

Acts 6:7 – And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

### Family Guide (5-day format):

1. Read 6:1
  - a. Talk about how sometimes when lots of people get together, differing opinions on what is important emerge.
  - b. Talk about how sometimes someone gets left out in big groups. Relate this to your kids by talking about what happens if they have two friends over and then just play with one of them.
  - c. Relate this back to the passage by talking about how there was a group of the early Christians getting left out.
  - d. Ask them what some solutions could be (the leaders could take care of those left out, the people who see the problem could take care of it themselves).
2. Read 6:1-4
  - a. Remind them of what you talked about yesterday: the problem and the possible solutions.
  - b. Ask them who it was that was going to be in charge of taking care of the problem? The apostles (the main leaders), or others?
  - c. Talk about the importance of the apostles and how God had commissioned them specifically to focus on preaching and teaching and prayer.
  - d. Draw into their world by talking about distractions. Be creative here and relate it to your family specifically.
3. Read 6:1-6
  - a. This is a short passage so work back through the previous two days discussions.
  - b. Have them repeat the names after you in verse 5.
  - c. Talk about how they laid hands on them (verse 6). Talk about how sometimes we lay hands on people when we pray.
  - d. Take turns praying over each of your kids and having the rest of the family lay hands on each child in turn.
4. Read 6:7
  - a. Summarize first the whole passage as you've been talking about it all week.
  - b. Frame for them the problem (some were being ignored), the solution (they appointed some men to take care of them), now focus on verse 7, the result: the Word of God continued to increase...
  - c. Verse 7 is the memory verse for the week –have them repeat it after you.
5. Work back through the whole passage.
  - a. Try to prompt them through telling the story themselves.
  - b. Work on the memory verse a couple of times.
  - c. Pray again by laying hands on each child in turn.



### Prior Week: Gospel Obedience

Acts 5:12-42

The apostles kept doing many signs and wonders for the people of the city to see. They met in the Temple and not many dared join them but the people thought well of them. Many more people became believers also, both men and women. People from the towns around the city brought out the sick and laid them on mats in the street so when Peter came by his shadow might touch them.

The high priest and his friends the Sadducees were jealous of the apostles, so they arrested them and put them in jail. During the night an angel sent by God opened the doors to the jail and said, “Go to the Temple and teach the people the words of Life.” The apostles obeyed and began teaching in the morning.

That same morning, the high priest and his friends brought the rulers of the people together and sent the police to bring the apostles from jail. When the police arrived, the apostles weren't in the jail! They went back and said, “The jail was locked and the guards were at the doors, but no one was inside.” This made the captain and the important priests wonder what was going to happen now. Just then, someone came in saying, “Look! The men you put in jail are teaching in the Temple.” So the captain and the officers went and brought the apostles back.

When the apostles arrived, the high priest said, “We warned you to stop teaching about Jesus, but you have filled the city with your teaching, trying to make us guilty for killing Him.” Peter and the apostles replied, “We have to do what God says not what men say. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from death, He is the one you killed on the cross. God has made Jesus Leader and Savior of Israel, bringing repentance and forgiveness of sins. We saw all this happen and the Holy Spirit agrees because God has given Him to those who obey God.”

When the high priest, his friends and the rulers heard this they were really mad and wanted to kill the apostles. But a man named Gamaliel, a Bible teacher who the people liked, stood up and had the apostles sent outside for a bit. He said to the rulers, “Men of Israel, be careful what you do to these men. There have been two men before that said they were important and got some people to follow them. Both of them were killed by the Romans and their followers scattered. So keep away from these followers of Jesus, because if this is their teaching, their plan will fail; but if they teach the truth, you will not be able to stop them. In fact, you might find yourselves opposing God!

The rulers agreed and took Gamaliel's advice. They called the apostles in, beat them, told them to stop teaching about Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left happy because God allowed them to be treated badly for Jesus' name. Every day, in the Temple and in people's houses, the apostles kept teaching about King Jesus.

We call this story . . . *Gospel Obedience*.



### Dialog

1. **What were the apostles doing for the people to see? Where did they meet? What did the people think of them?**  
*They were doing signs and wonders. They met in the Temple.  
The people thought well of the apostles, but didn't dare join them.*
2. **How many people believed? What did people from the towns do? Why?**  
*Many more people. They brought sick people out in the streets.  
They hoped that Peter's shadow would touch them.*
3. **Who was jealous of the apostles? What did they do to them? Why were they jealous?**  
*The high priest and his friends the Sadducees. They put the apostles in jail.  
The apostles challenged their position with the people.*
4. **Who came during the night? Who sent him? What did he do? What did he say? What did the apostles do?**  
*An angel. God sent the angel. He opened the doors to the jail.  
"Go to the Temple and teach the people the words of Life."  
The apostles obeyed.*
5. **What happened in the morning? What happened when the police got to the jail? How did the captain and important priests react?**  
*The high priest sent the police to bring the apostles from the jail. The apostles were gone! They wondered what was going to happen now that the apostles were gone.*
6. **What happened next? What did the captain do?**  
*Some came in and told them that the apostles were teaching in the Temple.  
The captain brought the apostles back to the rulers.*
7. **What did the high priest say to the apostles? How did the apostles respond? What did they tell the rulers?**  
*He reminded them that they were warned to not teach about Jesus. They were trying to make the Rulers guilty for killing Jesus.  
They had to do what God said to do and not what men told them.  
Jesus is raised from death by God. They killed Jesus on the cross. God has made Jesus the Leader and Ruler of Israel.*
8. **Why did God make Jesus Leader and Ruler? Who agreed with the apostles about what they taught? Who is the Holy Spirit given to?**  
*To bring repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. The Holy Spirit agreed with the apostles.  
He is given to those that obey God.*
9. **How did the rulers respond to what the apostles said? Who stood up to speak? What did Gamaliel say?**  
*They wanted to kill the apostles because they were really mad. Gamaliel stood up to speak to them.  
He told them that if God was not with the apostles, they wouldn't succeed. But if God was with them, the rulers could do nothing to stop them and would be fight against God!*
10. **What did the rulers think of Gamaliel's advice? What did they do instead of killing the apostles?**  
*They agreed with Gamaliel's advice. They beat the apostles, told them to stop teaching about Jesus, and let them go.*



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**11. How did the apostles feel about being beaten? What did they do after they were beaten?**

*They were happy because God let them be treated badly for Jesus.*

*The kept teaching people about King Jesus in the Temple and in people's houses.*

**12. What do we learn about God in the story?**

*God helps His people (sent the angel, unlocked the jail doors)*

*God leads His church (go teach in the Temple, obey God not men)*

*God's plan cannot be stopped by men (jail doors unlocked, Gamaliel's advice)*

*God raised Jesus from death*

*God made Jesus Leader and Savior of Israel*

*God gives the Holy Spirit*

*Bad things are in God's control*

**Application**

1. What do you like best about this story?
2. What questions do you have about this story?
3. What should we do when other want us to disobey God?
4. What can we do when bad things happen to us?