



Participant's Guide

Week of April 30

The Big Idea

The Early Church drew people to Christ through their sacrificial living and endurance despite persecution.

Getting Started

1. What does it mean to be a "cultural" Christian?
2. Reflect on this quote by Rob Dreher: "American Christians are going to have to come to terms with the brute fact that we live in a culture, one in which our beliefs make increasingly little sense. We speak a language that the world more and more

either cannot hear or finds offensive to its ears." What are the negatives? What are the positives?

Digging In

1. Read **Acts 5:12-16**. Why were people attracted to the early church?
 2. Read **Acts 5:17-18**. Where have the "religious leaders" gone wrong? What led them to make these decisions?
 3. Read **Acts 5:19-32**. What sorts of discomforts and/or dangers did people face in this passage for the sake of Christ? Think through physical, emotional, mental, etc. How does this compare to discomforts/dangers that you've faced?
 4. Read **Acts 5:33-42**. What is encouraging about this passage?
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Looking Around

1. What are some ways the Church in America can be held in 'high esteem' by the American public?
2. If it ever came to it, are you willing to bleed so you might bless your neighborhoods and the nations?

Spring 2017

Pray

Perhaps, in light of this passage, we all need to pray for boldness. You can also spend time praying for the persecuted Church in the majority of the world outside the US.