

## Session 5

# THEME: THE CLASH OF KINGDOMS

### Looking Back

- Follow up on anything from the last session, e.g., things they were encouraged to do.
- What was the most important thing you did or heard at the last session?

### CONNECT

### What is Happening Now?

#### Resources

Bibles, a little oil, glass of water

#### Icebreaker activity

Thumbs up! Thumbs down! – This was good! This was bad!

Read Acts 5:17-22. Pause at the end of each verse to let the group decide if it is good or bad. Then, they can show what they think by putting their thumbs up or down.

V17: Thumbs up! Thumbs down!      V18: Thumbs up! Thumbs down!

V19: Thumbs up! Thumbs down!      V20: Thumbs up! Thumbs down!

After responding to verse 20, ask them to reconsider “Thumbs up! Thumbs down!” because it meant they would probably go back to prison.

⇒ Discuss what prison would be like. Prisons in the time of Acts were very different from modern-day prisons.

Now ask again, “Thumbs up! Thumbs down!” But do not pressure them to make the “right decision.”

V21: The disciples obeyed: Thumbs up! Thumbs down!

#### Discussion

- ⇒ How hard is it to do what God says? There might be a discussion on this: it depends on their experience; if God says it, it must always be the best, or it might be the best for the kingdom, but not easy for us. Try to encourage the group to think this through from different angles.
- ⇒ Discuss times when Satan tells us to do one thing, but God is telling us to do another. Ask for people to share examples. How did they know which was from God and which was from Satan?

# TRUTH TO KNOW

## Focus for our faith: There is a war between two kingdoms!

This session encourages everyone to learn to discern what is of God and what is not, how we should respond, and who we should obey.

### Introduction

We want to help you know the Truth, and we are going to do our best to tell you what is true, but you don't just need to take our word. You need to read it in the Bible for yourself. So, each time we meet, we will open the Bible and read the Truth.

This week's "Truth to Know" is found in Acts 5:12-29.

### IN:Tribe Connect

Remember that being in IN is like the Issachar Tribe: we are to know the times. We're also to know what to do.

We know Jesus is coming back.

We know when He returns, He will be a Warrior and King.

- He will rescue His people from bad things happening to them.

We know Jesus said there would be signs that would tell us His return is soon.

- We should watch for the signs and stand firm when times are tough.
- We should be ready for Jesus to come back.
- We know Jesus will return to Jerusalem in Israel.
- Israel is where the Jewish people live.

Israel and the Jewish people are special to God.

Jesus is Jewish.

Did you know the Bible tells us there is a war between God's kingdom and the world?

### Background to this Bible passage

After the disciples watched Jesus go to Heaven, they were told to go to Jerusalem to wait. So, they hid in Jerusalem while there, God sent the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit came into them, they preached, and 3,000 were saved. Then the disciples went and were telling everyone in Jerusalem about Jesus.

This made the officials who did not like Jesus mad. They had rules against sharing about Jesus, and if the disciples broke those rules, they would be in trouble.

Peter and the disciples had to decide what to do.

### The unfolding Story (your interactive "teaching")

Read Acts 5:12-29.

Peter and the disciples were in a great dilemma – who were they going to obey?

- There would be big trouble if they obeyed God (His Kingdom) (v17–19).
- What would happen if they obeyed (Satan's kingdom) (v18)?

Discuss the decision Peter had to make. You may think about the consequences of his decision, how easy it would be for him to make that decision, and even whether Peter would have known what was God's kingdom and what was Satan's kingdom.

Now let's see what Peter said, "But Peter and the other apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29.

⇒ Which kingdom won? Thumbs up – God's kingdom won.

### **Activity suggestion**

**Aim:** To show that the life of God's kingdom and the world's cannot mix.

Pour some oil into a glass of water. Stir it several times and ask if the oil has mixed with the water. Discuss how many times you have to stir it to keep it mixed.

They don't mix; they can't mix. So they can live in the same container but refuse to blend.

### **Discuss**

Keep the glass of water and oil mix in focus.

⇒ Will they ever mix? Never (even if it looks like they have combined, they will soon settle out clearly).

⇒ Can God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom ever mix? No – we are in this world but not OF this world.

Jesus is King! He will one day come on His white horse, and then Satan's kingdom will be defeated FOREVER because Jesus' kingdom will always win.

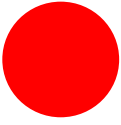
## **READY TO GO**

Thinking about how this affects our lives and our response to the signs we see:

1. In what areas of your life do you feel the clash between God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom?
2. How can you stand for God's kingdom in those clashes?

## TIME FOR ACTION

1. "Stop and think" action point.



Spend some time sharing about the times when we must be like Peter and stand for God's kingdom even though it is hard (like it was for Peter), e.g., when lying would be easier.

2. "Pause to pray" action point.



Spend some time focusing on who this King is – praising Him and thanking Him for coming and dying so we can live in His kingdom.

3. "Go and do" action point.



This week find one time when you can choose to live under the rules of God's kingdom and not Satan's.

## FOR DEEPER STUDY

*For those who would like to study further about themes raised in the session.*

### For Study, read:

1. Acts 3-4:20 to learn about which kingdom Peter & John chose: God's or Satan's?"
2. Acts 5:1-11 to find out what happened to two people who chose Satan's kingdom and lied to God.
3. Acts 5:12-15 to read what may happen when you choose to follow God's kingdom.

### For Memorizing:

1. Acts 5:29: "We must obey God rather than men."
2. Acts 4:19-20: "But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

### For Observation:

1. Notice that before the opposition, amazing things were happening.
2. Spend some time exploring the fact that nations can contravene God's law, maybe using persecuted nations as an example and the price Christians pay for making tough choices, like Peter.
3. Bring into focus that young people their age are making these tough choices.

### For Action:

1. Go to [www.vom.org](http://www.vom.org) or [Open Doors](http://OpenDoors.org) and find how you can write a letter encouraging someone who is making these tough choices to "Obey God rather than man."
2. Pray for that person.

### Before the next IN:Tribe:

1. See if you can find one law that you believe is not what God wants in a nation.

