

5-Day Devotional Guide: "Adjusting the Lens" (Acts 5)

DAY 1: What Are You Focusing On?

Text: Acts 5:12–16

Key Idea: What you focus on shapes how you live.

The early church lived in a reality that had *both* fear and faith, *both* resistance and revival. If you zoom in on one line—"no one dared join them"—it looks like things are falling apart. But when you zoom out, you see something completely different: miracles, unity, growth, and people being healed.

Same moment. Different focus.

We do this all the time. You can look at your life and see:

- Stress
- Problems
- Uncertainty

Or... without changing your circumstances, you can shift your focus and begin to see:

- God sustaining you
- Opportunities to grow
- Evidence of His work

The difference is not your situation—it's your lens.

God is not asking you to ignore reality. He's inviting you to *see it rightly*.

Reflection Questions:

The early church was living in tension. That's the word that defines this moment. Not peace. Not chaos. **Tension.**

Because at the exact same time:

- People were afraid ("no one dared join them")
- And people were being saved in increasing numbers
- There was hesitation
- And there was undeniable movement of God

Nothing about their external circumstances was simple or easy. But what stands out is not what they were *facing*—it's what they were *focused on*.

Luke could have emphasized the fear. He could have framed this as a struggling movement. But instead, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he zooms out and highlights:

- Signs and wonders
- Unity among believers
- Growth in numbers
- Healing and restoration

Same reality. Different emphasis.

That's not accidental—that's instructional.

Because we do the same thing every day. You can wake up and immediately zoom in on:

- What's stressful
- What's uncertain
- What didn't go your way

And if that's your focus, it will shape your entire day. Your emotions will follow your attention.

But what if, without changing anything externally, you adjusted your lens?

What if you started asking:

- Where is God already at work?
- What has He already done?
- What is still good, still true, still hopeful?

This isn't denial—it's alignment with reality. Because God's activity is just as real as your problems... often more so.

Reflection Questions:

- When you wake up, what does your mind naturally focus on?
- What "headline" have you been writing over your life lately?
- What have you been focusing on lately—the problems or God's activity?
- Where can you already see evidence of God working in your life?
- How might your attitude change if you shifted your focus?

Practice for Today:

Write down 5 things—specific, not generic—where you can see God's hand in your life right now.

DAY 2: Recognize God's Blessings

Text: Acts 5:12–16

Key Idea: God is often doing more than you realize.

The apostles weren't blind to opposition—but they didn't let it define their perspective. Instead, they recognized:

- God's power (signs and wonders)
- God's people (gathered together)
- God's growth (more believers added daily)

Even in a tense environment, God's blessings were undeniable.

Here's the tension:

We tend to magnify what's wrong and minimize what's right.

But gratitude recalibrates your heart. When you begin to intentionally recognize God's blessings, it changes:

- Your outlook
- Your faith
- Your endurance

God's activity is not absent—you may just not be noticing it.

It's easy to read a passage like this and think, "Of course they saw God's blessings—people were literally being healed."

But don't miss this: they were also dealing with growing opposition, social pressure, and real fear.

And yet, the emphasis of the passage is still on what God is doing—not what's going wrong.

Why?

Because what you consistently *recognize* becomes what you naturally *expect*.

If you train your mind to notice problems, you'll begin to expect more problems.

If you train your heart to recognize God's blessings, you'll begin to expect His activity.

This is why gratitude is not just a feeling—it's a discipline.

The early church saw:

- People coming to faith
- The sick being brought forward in hope

- Communities forming around the presence of God

They could have said, “Not everyone is joining.”

Instead, the reality became: **“More and more are believing.”**

Same data. Different interpretation.

And here’s where this gets personal—many of us are living in the middle of answered prayers we’ve already forgotten about.

We’ve moved on. We’ve adjusted. We’ve normalized blessings that once felt like miracles.

Gratitude slows you down enough to *see again*.

Reflection Questions:

- What has God done in your life that you’ve started to take for granted?
- What would change if you intentionally looked for God’s goodness every day?
- What are 3 specific ways God has blessed you recently?
- Where have you overlooked God’s goodness?
- How can you build a habit of recognizing His work daily?

Practice for Today:

Pause three times today (morning, afternoon, evening) and intentionally thank God for something specific in that moment.

DAY 3: Whose Voice Are You Following?

Text: Acts 5:17–32

Key Idea: God’s direction must outweigh every other voice. The loudest voice is not always the right one.

The apostles had clear direction from God:

“Go... and tell the people about this new life.”

But clarity didn’t make things easier—it made the opposition sharper.

Because as soon as they obeyed, everything pushed back:

- Arrest
- Authority
- Threats
- Intimidation

Suddenly, competing voices got loud:

- “Stop.”
- “Be quiet.”
- “This will cost you.”

But their response was simple and unwavering: **“We must obey God rather than human beings.”**

Clarity from God doesn’t remove pressure—it prepares you for it.

You will face moments where:

- Obedience is uncomfortable
- Truth is unpopular
- Following God has a cost

And in those moments, the question becomes: **Whose voice will you trust?**

You can know what God is calling you to do...And still feel:

- Doubt creeping in
- Pressure from others
- Fear of what it might cost

In those moments, it can feel like you need to “recalculate.”

But the apostles didn’t recalculate—they **returned to what God had already said.**

“We must obey God rather than human beings.”

They didn’t:

- Adjust the message
- Soften the truth
- Wait for a better moment

They simply obeyed. Because obedience isn’t about comfort—it’s about trust. And pressure has a way of revealing who you really trust.

Reflection Questions:

- What has God already made clear that you need to act on?
- What voices are currently influencing your decisions?
- Where might God be calling you to obey, even if it’s difficult?
- What would it look like to fully trust His direction right now?

Practice for Today:

Identify one area where you've been hesitating in obedience—and take one concrete step forward today.

DAY 4: Remember God's Power

Text: Acts 5:33–40

Key Idea: If God is behind it, it cannot be stopped.

Gamaliel brings a perspective that cuts through the chaos.

He basically says:

History has already shown us what happens to movements built on human effort—they fade.

But if this is from God?

It's unstoppable.

That statement reframes everything.

Because most of us live as if everything depends on us:

- Our strength
- Our ability
- Our outcomes

But this passage reminds us: God is not fragile. His plans are not at risk.

Opposition doesn't mean failure.

Difficulty doesn't mean defeat.

And when things feel uncertain, we feel the weight of trying to control outcomes we were never meant to carry.

You are not responsible for sustaining what only God can secure.

This doesn't make you passive—it makes you **peaceful**.

You still obey. You still act. You still move forward.

But you do so with the confidence that the outcome is not ultimately in your hands.

Even in this passage:

- The apostles are beaten
- They are threatened
- They are opposed

And yet... they are not stopped. Because God is behind what is happening. And if God is behind it, opposition cannot undo it.

When God is at work:

- Resistance may come
- Pressure may rise
- But the outcome is never in doubt

You are not carrying God's mission—He is carrying you.

Reflection Questions:

- Where are you feeling pressure or resistance right now?
- How does remembering God's power change your perspective?
- What would it look like to trust that God is in control?

Practice for Today:

Write down one situation you're anxious about—and consciously release it to God in prayer.

DAY 5: Rejoice Even in the Struggle

Text: Acts 5:41–42

Key Idea: Suffering is not the absence of God's work—it can be part of it.

The apostles were:

- Beaten
- Threatened
- Publicly shamed

And they left... **rejoicing**. Why?

This is one of the most challenging—and most revealing—moments in the passage.

Their suffering didn't mean they were outside of God's will.

It meant they were walking in the same path as Jesus. When you understand that God is still at work—even in hardship—you don't lose heart.

That perspective changes everything.

Most of us naturally think:

- If things are hard, something must be wrong
- If there's resistance, maybe we should stop
- If it costs too much, maybe it's not worth it

But the apostles didn't interpret their experience that way.

They didn't slow down.

They didn't pull back.

They didn't wait for easier conditions.

They kept going:

- Day after day
- House to house
- With steady, unshaken commitment

Because they saw themselves as **witnesses**, not consumers of comfort.

And witnesses don't change the message based on the reaction—they carry what they've been given.

That's why their joy wasn't rooted in circumstances—it was rooted in purpose.

Reflection Questions:

- How do you usually interpret hardship in your life?
- Where might God be working through something difficult right now?
- What would it look like to remain faithful, even when it's costly?

Practice for Today:

Instead of asking "Why is this happening?", ask: "How can I be faithful in this?"

Closing Thought for the Week

You are always looking through a lens. You can focus on:

- Problems → and live in fear
- Or God's work → and move forward in faith

Same life. Same circumstances. Different focus.

So the question is:

What are you choosing to see?